

SEVEN DAYS

20
YEARS

**SENATOR,
DEFENDANT**

Lawmakers on
McAllister

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The highs and lows of
overdose-reversing Narcan

BY ALICIA FREESE, PAGE 32

STAYING ALIVE



MY MAAY MAAY

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Samali Suntu makes a TV show



HOOPS AND DREAMS

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A new book on Obama and basketball



BIEN MANGER

PAGE 46

Taste Test: Bistro de Margot



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Year	Number of cases	Rate per 100,000
1990	1,000	1.0
1991	1,100	1.1
1992	1,200	1.2
1993	1,300	1.3
1994	1,400	1.4
1995	1,500	1.5
1996	1,600	1.6
1997	1,700	1.7
1998	1,800	1.8
1999	1,900	1.9
2000	2,000	2.0
2001	2,100	2.1
2002	2,200	2.2
2003	2,300	2.3
2004	2,400	2.4
2005	2,500	2.5
2006	2,600	2.6
2007	2,700	2.7
2008	2,800	2.8
2009	2,900	2.9
2010	3,000	3.0
2011	3,100	3.1
2012	3,200	3.2
2013	3,300	3.3
2014	3,400	3.4
2015	3,500	3.5
2016	3,600	3.6
2017	3,700	3.7
2018	3,800	3.8
2019	3,900	3.9
2020	4,000	4.0

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VIDEO SERIES



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Under the Skin

Stuck in Vermont: AKA a successful Kalamazoo campaign, Benjamin Spill Hardly has ever spent so much time in Vermont. One campaigner's story of how he spent his time in Vermont.

Heroin Worship



The story of Nana H. before the explosion that led him to a new phenomenon in Vermont. It's been there at least 10 years. One thing is different, though: "In 1994 you couldn't buy heroin in City Hall Park in Burlington," says Nana. "Now you can."

Her friend Michael M. agrees: "The street availability of heroin, he says, has increased exponentially." Not

only that, he adds, but "the kind of people involved with it has changed."

Nana hopes that her story will be a cautionary tale to potential users, or those who have flirted with heroin but are not yet hooked. She knows that the glamorous drugs benefit in the beginning, and believes that young users are, for instance, Burlington's City Hall Park that's "too" to be a dealer

"There's nothing cool about it," she declares flatly. "There's nothing cool about pain."

As a poor educator, Nana says, "I try to share my experience about consuming drugs. You know, the suffering, torture of an addict. That's just bullsh*t. When you're on the back of a car with a redneck and you're forced to have sex with him for drugs, there's nothing more to show that."

20/20

HINDSIGHT

two decades of

Seven Days

November 10

1999

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the MAGNIFICENT

WHAT TO JUST DO THIS WEEK
BY WRITER KRISTEN KAVIN

7

1 'Bingle' All the Way

Whether the young or the young at heart, can resist seeing *It's a Wonderful Life* during the Q&A Productions play *Bingle Jingle*. Prepared to repeat parts of letters and seasonal cheer, this musical comedy draws a cast of adults and kids portraying Santa and Mrs. Claus, a troupe of tap-dancing elves, and the one and only black monkey. Thank you, Thank you very much.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 33

2

THURSDAY 10 Call to Action

Female and female enthusiasts use their craft for a cause at the Vermont Green Quilt Block Making Party. As part of a national project, participants contribute to a patchwork portrait of our country with two tiers of United States quilt squares. Squares will be part of a countrywide quilt, but instead of sewing, makers of dress, a dance and sword dance in the U.S. and abroad.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 32

3

SATURDAY 12 Melody Maker

Songs have lived a musical death. But not if her body of work is any indication, she takes the phrase to heart. A prolific singer-songwriter who penned 100 songs for others, she has a pop music and a folk music career. Her songs are a mix of pop, rock, folk, jazz, blues and pop. Her songs are a mix of pop, rock, folk, jazz, blues and pop. Her songs are a mix of pop, rock, folk, jazz, blues and pop.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 33

4

FRIDAY 11-SUNDAY 13 Songs of the Season

Here's The Vermont Symphony Orchestra. Holiday plays make a truly this season with a variety of programs of holiday songs, including: *Sleigh Ride*, *March of the Toys*, and of course, *Knights from the Kingdom of the North*. *Knights from the Kingdom of the North* is an opera by the Vermont Comedy Series in an opera by the Vermont Comedy Series in an opera by the Vermont Comedy Series.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 33

5

SATURDAY 12 & SUNDAY 13 Enchanted Kingdom

Somebody's singing and singing about singing. Open to all ages, the show is a musical and a songwriting workshop. The show is a musical and a songwriting workshop. The show is a musical and a songwriting workshop. The show is a musical and a songwriting workshop. The show is a musical and a songwriting workshop. The show is a musical and a songwriting workshop.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 33

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THURSDAY 10 Grass Reunion

Grassroots are the heart of the community. The show is a musical and a songwriting workshop. The show is a musical and a songwriting workshop. The show is a musical and a songwriting workshop. The show is a musical and a songwriting workshop. The show is a musical and a songwriting workshop. The show is a musical and a songwriting workshop.

SEE SCHEDULED ON PAGE 32

7

ONGOING Art of Giving

Helping shipping, it's all about giving, and so are the members of the Vermont Art of Giving. From paintings to jewelry, the show is a musical and a songwriting workshop. The show is a musical and a songwriting workshop. The show is a musical and a songwriting workshop. The show is a musical and a songwriting workshop. The show is a musical and a songwriting workshop.

SEE ART LISTING ON PAGE 33



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FAIR GAME

SENATE SENATOR ON VERMONT POLITICS BY PAUL HENRT



Suspended Animation

Seven months after Sen. **PHIL BAPATICH** was arrested outside the Statehouse on sexual assault charges, his colleagues are preparing for the possibility that the Franklin County Republican will return to Montpelier when the State Senate reconvenes January.

And while most of his peers are still holding out hope that he'll resign before then, support for his expulsion — an unprecedented and potentially messy step — has faded. Instead, they're considering suspending him without pay.

"Whether he gets expelled from the Senate is not nearly as important as the bigger picture," says Sen. **JEN CAMPBELL** (D-Windham), the Senate president pro tempore.

Campbell says he'd vote to expel McAllister if such a vote were held today, but he fears that process leading to that scenario would interfere with the state's prosecution. The scenario, which is out on bail, has pleaded not guilty to three felony charges of sexual assault and three misdemeanor counts of prohibited acts. A trial is scheduled for February, while the Senate is in session.

"I do not want to do anything that may jeopardize the criminal case in this matter," Campbell says.

Seven Days called all 29 of McAllister's colleagues this week and spoke to 26 of them before deadline. Fifteen said they thought the House's former president might resign, while 10 said it was up to McAllister. One, Sen. **WILL BOWEN** (R-Washington), said he "should not resign without a trial" (see all their answers at sevendays.com/fair-game).

Only four senators said they would vote to expel McAllister, knowing what they know now about his alleged crimes. Seventeen said they would oppose expulsion, while another five said they were undecided or needed more information.

That's a dramatic shift from last June, when the Associated Press of **DAVID ARON** reported the Senate. But then, it supported expulsion, five opposed it, nine were undecided and one could not be reached for comment.

McAllister, who previously pledged that he would not resign nor accept a plea deal, did not return a call Tuesday seeking comment.

Sen. **DAVID ARON** (R-Franklin) was among those who told Green last summer that he'd vote to expel McAllister with whom he shares a two-member district. But now that he's learned how "messy" such a process might be, the St. Albans

Republican says his position has "evolved" to undecided.

That messiness could include the appointment of a special investigative committee made up of sitting senators, who would take testimony from witnesses and make a recommendation to the full body, according to Senate Secretary **JOHN MALLON**. Such a proceeding might precede or coincide with a criminal trial, complicating matters for all involved.

"I really need to see what's going to happen and how it's going to happen before I say yes or no to anything," Bapatich says.

Many, including Sen. **ERIN CAMPION** (D-Bennington), now believe the Senate should vote to suspend McAllister, pending the outcome of his criminal case. At least 10 support that proposal, while another 13 say they're undecided or need more information about the plan.

**WE DIDN'T TAKE A VOTE,
BUT IT WAS CLEAR
WE WERE OF TWO MINDS.**

SEN. PHIL BAPATICH

"I think it's important for the criminal justice process to happen, and I do worry about setting a precedent for the future during this process," says Campion, who was undecided last summer and now opposes expulsion.

At the same time the Bennington Democrat calls the charges against McAllister "grave" and says the Senate must "take steps to protect other people from harm," as a school or hospital might.

Authorities have accused McAllister of covering one woman in here on with him in exchange for sex — and attempting to do the same to another. They have said he repeatedly assaulted a third woman, who worked for him.

McAllister told Seven Days in October that he had sex with two of the women, though he claimed it was always consensual. As a phone conversation taped by the Vermont State Police last May, he told one of the alleged victims, "I know it was forcing you to do something you didn't want to do." "I knew that you didn't really want to do it."

The allegations still particularly close to home for many senators, because the

third alleged victim served as McAllister's unofficial Statehouse assistant last session. She told Seven Days in May that he raped her "every time I went down there — just about," referring to the Montpelier apartment he shared with two other legislators. Two Senate colleagues previously described the woman in Seven Days to looking as if she was in her 30s or 40s.

The woman, who is now 30, told the paper in May that she was 18 or 19 when McAllister first assaulted her at his Thyme farm. McAllister, 54, told Seven Days in October that she was at least 16 before he had sexual contact with her.

"I mean, he brought her to my committee room in his interim," says Sen. **ANGELA BALLET** (D-Windham), who previously supported McAllister's expulsion but now believes he should be suspended. "That just makes me really uncomfortable. I wish I had more words for it than that, but I assume a certain amount of deviance and professionalism."

LA Gov. **REP. STEVE** the state's highest-ranking Republican and a candidate for governor, is throwing his support behind the suspension proposal. As a presiding officer of the Senate, he can only call the vote-breaking vote, but he can influence the process through parliamentary rulings.

"We should suspend him until he has his day in court," Scott says. "And, at that point, if he's found guilty, we may move to expel. If he's found not guilty, maybe not."

Not every senator is concerned of that plan.

"It strikes me that, then, Franklin County would not be getting the two senators they're entitled to," says Sen. **PAUL ARON** (R-Rutland), a close friend of McAllister's who previously served as his attorney.

Foley is drafting a competing resolution that would "establish ground rules" for an expulsion procedure but would leave the Senate from voting McAllister "until the case has been resolved in the courts." At least once more, they may support her idea, while another might say they're undecided or need more information.

Even if McAllister remains in the Senate for the time being, his powers may be constrained. Last time a vote that he struck last year, the three-member Committee on Committees stripped him of his seats on two committees in a fruitless effort to convince him to resign. At least one of McAllister's colleagues now say he should resign his committee seats if he remains in the Senate.

"I really don't think so," says Sen. **ANGIE CARROLL** (D-Windham), who opposes expulsion. "I don't see that being successful

of a crime, no matter how heinous, keeps you from being able to represent your constituents?"

But that decision up to the Committee on Commerce, whose members include Scott, Campbell and Sen. **JOCK MACISAAC** (I-Great Ind.). Scott and Campbell say they would not vote to restore McAllister's committee privilege, while MacIsaac says he would.

Competing viewpoints hardly follow partisan lines. Sen. **CLARKE AMER** (D-Idaho) and Sen. **TIM WAIN** (D/T-Cincinnati), among the Senate's more liberal members, have consistently opposed expelling the Republican, though both say they hope he resigns.

"It's an America, it's a Vermont. It's his constitutional rights," Ayer says. "And I don't believe the people who make laws should pick and choose who they apply to."

Conversely, Sen. **JOE BIRMINGHAM** (R-California), the Republican minority leader and one of the more conservative members of the Senate, has been the most vocal proponent of expulsion. He wrote McAllister in October with a November 1 ultimatum and even provided a draft resignation letter.

Since Seven Days obtained a copy of that letter and published it, Birmingham's colleagues have buzzed him over it and accused him of "groundswelling" — meaning he looked it to the press to further his political objectives. Several blame him primarily for impeding the expulsion upon by discussing it before his colleagues were on board.

"The Republican caucus is not a happy caucus right now," one GOP legislator says.

Birmingham still has a draft expulsion resolution "in my possession," he says, but he won't discuss whether he plans to file it.

"I did like there's a conversation that is ongoing and I don't want to jeopardize that conversation," he says.

The conversation is ongoing, but it's taking place behind closed doors.

The Senate Rules Committee, which is vetting the various proposals, met last month in the Senate cloakroom to try to find consensus. Leadership notified all 30 senators about the meeting, but not the public nor the press, and did not list it on the legislature's website.

Seven Days made a standing request last spring to be notified directly of all Rules Committee meetings after the panel met secretly to discuss the creation of an ethics committee.

"I take full responsibility," says Bloomer, the Senate secretary.

The meeting about McAllister took place two hours before a Statehouse memorial service for the late **MARGARET SCHULLER**, a former lieutenant-governor and senator. McAllister himself

showed up at the memorial service — his first State Capitol appearance since his May arrest — though he did not attend the Rules meeting, according to participants.

Nor did the committee reach consensus on McAllister's fate. Its members — Campbell, Birmingham, Mary Mearns and Sen. **PAUL BARNETT** (D-Chicago) — have the option of moonshooting one or more proposals to the full Senate, but the point is split between those who want to take action and those who don't.

"We didn't take a vote, but it was clear we were two minds," Barnett says.

As majority leader, Barnett is hoping to unite his fellow Democrats around the suspension proposal on Saturday at the crucial annual pre-session organizing meeting.

Don't expect an invitation.

The meeting is usually held at Montpelier's Capitol Plaza Hotel and Conference Center and is typically attended by lobbyists, administration officials and members of the press. But this year it's taking place at Campbell's house in Jamaica.

"If you would like to come, you're invited to come," the pro tem tells Seven Days.

And what about the public? Campbell says, "I didn't ask the public." Campbell says, "Just as you see news, the caucus did not have to be open to the press or the public. These are things we try to do and are done when we're up at the Statehouse, but I'm not about to open my house . . . We don't have the room to do that."

Like their counterparts in the House and in the Republican Party, Senate Democrats have a history of meeting secretly in undisclosed locations. Unlike GOP cohorts, though, Senate Democratic caucuses are likely to be attended by a quorum of the Senate, since the party controls 24 of the body's 30 seats.

Campbell and the legislature's lawyers have long argued that the Senate and House are exempt from the state's open meetings law, but Secretary of State **JAM CONNORS** disagrees.

Public or private, the most surprising aspect of Saturday's McAllister discussion is that it's taking place so late in the game. Less than a month before the Senate convenes, nobody knows how the crisis will be resolved. If it's not — or if the Senate chooses to move forward with expulsion proceedings — the body could be paralyzed for days or weeks.

"I'm disappointed that we don't have the actual resolution that's going to go forward," Campbell says. "The answer is no, because we have not dealt with this before. I'm disappointed it happened in the first place."

Sen. **JOHN FREEMAN** (R-Lancaster) agrees. "I hate that," he says. "I did the whole thing just disgusting and not" ☐



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A Health Care Advocate Hatches a Plan to Cover All Young Vermonters

BY NANCY REMSEN

Last year, Gov. Peter Shumlin shocked many by announcing he was dropping his pursuit of a single-payer health care system because it was too expensive. Shumlin called the abandonment of his signature initiative the "greatest disappointment of my political life." It stilled progress toward state-guaranteed health care for all.

Now Peter Sterling, a respected and influential health care advocate, is stepping forward with an ambitious and sweeping proposal. Sterling is calling for the state to study a plan that could add 120,000 Vermonters to Dr. Dynasaur, the name Vermont uses for three Medicaid programs that offer free and low-cost health care to qualifying youngsters. Sterling's plan would abolish the current income limits for Dr. D and increase the age cutoff for coverage from 19 to 23, essentially creating single-payer for the young.

The 26-year-old Dr. Dynasaur offers comprehensive coverage, including vision and dental. The program has no deductibles, and premiums range from zero to \$60 a month. Dr. D has contributed to the state's top ranking in many measures of children's health.

Sterling said he came up with the idea last spring as he contemplated policy strategies after Shumlin's reelection. Now, Sterling said he asked himself: *Why aren't we expanding on something that is popular and robust public confidence in publicly funded health care?*

The price tag, though, could be a bitter pill. Sterling's estimate: \$300 million. He says that it could mean savings of up to \$5,000 a year in premiums for a family of four.

Still, with more than a decade of experience lobbying at the Statehouse, Sterling recognizes that lawmakers are unlikely to immediately embrace what would amount to the biggest expansion of a government health care program since the creation of Medicaid. During the coming legislative session, he will ask lawmakers only for a feasibility study to lay the groundwork for debate in 2017. He didn't have a cost pegged for the study.

Opposition to "Dr. Dynasaur 2.0"



as Sterling has dubbed his initiative, is already evident.

House Minority Leader Don Turner (R-Milton) called the proposal "unrealistic," given that the Medicaid program is costing millions more than projected this year. Lawmakers learned last week that state government faces \$40 million in unanticipated budget pressures, of which \$30 million is attributed to Medicaid. Given this financial crisis, which is expected to worsen next year, Turner said of the Dr. Dynasaur, "I can't believe that they are talking about that."

"It's waste time in studying it seems ridiculous" — and potentially dangerous, said Turner. "These studies lead to action. When it comes to these ideological ideas, the next thing you know, we are moving toward it."

Darcie Johnston, who leads an organization that favors private health care over government-run programs, is ready to mount a fight. "We totally oppose it and will aggressively work against it," the Vermonters for Health

Care Freedom founder said. She sees the proposed expansion as a backdoor effort to move the state toward single-payer health care.

Advocates argue that shifting young adults from the private insurance market would take the healthiest, cheapest-to-cover people out of the risk pool and would drive up costs for the rest of the population. "It is so destructive," she said. "We can't afford that."

Further, increasing the number of people who pay government's low insurance rates for their care compounds an existing problem, she said. Government plans don't pay doctors and hospitals enough to cover costs, and they either cut the lines or raise charges on those with private insurance.

If the Medicaid cost-shift problem isn't addressed, hospitals could be affected by the proposal. Jill Olson, a staff lobbyist for the Association of Hospitals and Health Systems, and the group has yet to review the Dr. D expansion proposal. "That said, we rarely oppose studies," Olson said. "Instead, we usually

advocate for the inclusion of questions that we think are important to the issue being considered."

House Speaker Shap Smith (D-Morrisville) supports a study of what he called "an intriguing public health and economic development proposal." It affords the possibility of more comprehensive and affordable coverage for young Vermonters, and that might lure young adults and families to Vermont, he said.

Sterling has created an organization, Dr. Dynasaur 2.0, recruited two people to serve on a steering committee and solicited funding to help him push his proposal. The National Education Association, whose state branch represents 12,000 teachers, has provided \$100,000. The Seattle-based Alliance for a Just Society, which is focused on racial, social and economic justice issues, gave \$100,000. The funding covers a salary for Sterling and program expenses, such as a website, polling and research. It pays for lobbying and outreach by staff at Main Street Alliance, an

organization that works to unite groups of businesses around legislative initiatives. Sterling also hired Steve Kappel, a health policy consultant, to develop preliminary financial information to help him persuade lawmakers that there is merit in pursuing additional research.

Sterling has experience building support for people and ideas. He managed Sen. Bernie Sanders' (I-Vt.) 2002

on his shoeing budget under a plan provided by his mother's employer. In November he became ill, but he put off getting medical help until he could hardly breathe. He ended up hospitalized with severe pneumonia.

Stephanie Huxley, chief operating officer of White + Burke Real Estate Investment Advisors in Burlington, also supports investigating the expansion of Dr. D.

WHY DON'T WE EXPAND ON SOMETHING THAT IS POPULAR AND REBUILD PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN PUBLICLY FUNDED HEALTH CARE?

PETER STERLING

on sugary beverages. The legislature rejected Sterling's proposed two cents-per-ounce excise tax, but it extended the state's 6 percent sales tax to sugary drinks.

For his push to get a study of expanding Dr. D, Sterling has secured support from 13 organizations, many formerly part of the coalition behind the Vermont Campaign for Health Care Security. They include the Vermont chapter of the AARP, the American Cancer Society of Vermont, Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility and Professional Fire Fighters of Vermont.

Sterling also has recruited people who are examples of those who could benefit from the initiative.

Lachlan Francis is a 39-year-old sophomore at the University of Vermont. Francis argues that expanding Dr. D's services would make the state more attractive to young adults. The Putney native said he wants to remain in Vermont after graduation, but that will be challenging.

Even now, Francis said, he hesitates to see doctors because of the high out-of-pocket costs he has to cover

"It is an exciting initiative," she said, noting that the status quo on health care is not affordable. She chairs the Main Street Alliance, one of the groups endorsing the study of the proposal. Huxley said a study would flesh out the details of the expansion and allow the evaluation of its merits. "We can do anything without data."

Blocking a study would seem "misguided," according to Jason Scruto-Winston, an intensive care nurse at the University of Vermont Medical Center and another supporter. He has heard patients and families discuss their worries about how to pay for care. The current health insurance system doesn't meet everyone's needs, he said, and "this study is to find out if [Sterling's plan] would be a money-saver."

Sterling believes his proposal would provide savings to families and employers. He has calculated, for example, that a family of four with \$75,000 in income might pay \$11,000 rather than \$16,000 in annual health insurance premiums — and potentially see \$4,000 to \$15,000 in savings on deductibles and other out-of-pocket medical payments.

Sterling pledges to abide by the results of research. "If the study comes back and results show that more taxes are needed than there are savings to Vermont employers and employees on health care costs," he said, "we will not pursue this expansion." □

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Irasburg Howls Over Wind Turbine Plan

BY MARK DAVIS

Long stretches of wooden fence went up on a private land along both sides of Radder Hill Road last month in Irasburg. The so-called Good Fences Project has nothing to do with dairy — or, neighbors. Locals are hoping to literally block the placement of two 500-foot-tall wind turbines on the property of AllEarth Renewables CEO David Blittersdorf.

Irasburg residents have watched over the years as trucks carrying wind turbines nearly as long as their town commute passed through en route to nearby hilltops. There's no way, they say, that a truck laden with an industrial turbine could squeeze through the fences and onto the only road that leads to the site.

"People in Irasburg are solidly united that they don't want these turbines, but they're not much for marching with banners or doing rallies," explained Judith Jackson, who counts herself among the opponents.

In recent years, residents in Swanton, Craftsbury, Milton, Lowell, Sheffield, Barre, Rutland, Dummerston, Fernald, New Haven, Hammonden and Rutland have waged bruising battles against wind towers.

Yet the conflict in Irasburg, a hard-scrabble town of 1,000 nestled between ridgelines 10 miles south of Newport, has gotten personal — not to mention vitriolic and bitter.

Residents have publicly called Blittersdorf a traitor, a liar and a "well in sheep's clothing." In October, they turned out en masse and voted 254-9 against his plan. Borrowing a page from

The Godfather, somebody left a severed deer head on his land.

One of the state's leading alternative-energy figures, Blittersdorf gives as good as he's gotten. He dismissed the opposition as a "mob" fueled by myths and misinformation. Despite the residents' veto, Blittersdorf made it clear he expects to force Irasburg to "do its part" to combat global warming.

Blittersdorf, a Princeton native and University of Vermont alumnus, founded Renewable NRG Systems, a Hinesburg company that became an international leader in wind measurements and ecology. "We grew our business in Vermont, and we didn't do it without paying about as much taxes," said Blittersdorf, who built Georgia Mountain Community Wind despite local opposition.

He left NRG, which is now run by his ex-wife, Jan Blittersdorf, and founded AllEarth Renewables in 2004, which, judging from the company website, appears to be rebranding itself as AllEarth Solar.

In Irasburg, though, it's all about wind. Pacing the debate, observers say, is a simmering resentment that extends to the rest of the Northeast Kingdom. Irasburg residents and their town and neighboring ones are being targeted for wind projects because they're too poor to defend themselves. Several people interviewed by Steve Davis revealed Mt. Mansfield and Camel's Hump — wind projects would never be proposed for those beloved landmarks, located in more affluent areas, they said.

"There's a feeling we're getting stuck

with the windmills," said activist and longtime Irasburg resident Howard Frank Mosher. "What bothers people about the windmills more than anything else is being told by outside people that we have to have them."

In 2000, Blittersdorf bought 60 acres on Radder Hill, just north of Irasburg village. He had always wanted to live in a hillside cabin, he said. Blittersdorf quickly installed two small wind turbines to generate power for the place. He was surprised by the high wind-speed readings and decided to install larger, industrial-size turbines. The two turbines would have a capacity of five megawatts and could generate enough electricity to power about 2,000 homes.

In August, Blittersdorf invited a couple dozen neighbors to his cabin to tell them his plans. He said he knew some people wouldn't be thrilled, but that the meeting was not confrontational. Yet word of the turbines led to fierce resistance.

Within days, opponents had created the Irasburg Ridges Alliance. They launched a website, recruited volunteers and got 486 of Irasburg's 685 registered voters to sign a petition demanding that the site be closed to "all possible means" to anyone Blittersdorf signs during the project approved around town.

Their grievances also include disputes they say the project would destroy the character of the area and the benefits would go primarily to others as the electric grid. They worry the turbines will create noise, harm wildlife and lower their property values. And they are dubious about its environmental benefits.



BY JEFFREY HARTLEY

Making matters worse, opponents charge that Blittersdorf is an arrogant interloper.

"He doesn't help. He needs a PR specialist," said Irasburg resident Ron Heiland. "He's a true believer in something that is overhyped, and he's hoping to make

money off it."

Blittersdorf says Irasburg is simply embracing a not-in-my-backyard stance. Renewable energy, he says, must be part of the solution for global warming. That means people are going to have to make room for solar panels and wind turbines. "We have to tackle it as a society, not as individual communities or people," he said. "How are we all going to move away from gas and carbon? We have to do something."

Blittersdorf said the project would generate \$45,000 in annual payments for the town, and that 19 percent of the power — the maximum allowed under Vermont's current net-metering laws — would go to local residents, reducing their electric bills. The rest would be sold to local utilities.

Irasburgers aren't buying it.

In an article headlined "Hostile Crowd Obliterates Blittersdorf Wind Plan," the *Caledonian Record* recounted a bitter August all-candidates meeting. Their chair Robin Kay initially refused to let Blittersdorf speak, saying he should have asked in advance to be on the agenda. Meanwhile, several of Blittersdorf's critics, whose names were not on the agenda either, were given an audience.

"Blittersdorf clearly listened to us. He was accused of being in bed with Governor Peter Shumlin, political

crusader and moral crusader in general, showing neighbors, accepting corporate welfare, having an conscience, lying and selling his soul," the board reported.

Toward the end of the meeting, the selectboard selected and agreed to hear from Blittersdorf. But first, the board warned audience members they should leave if they didn't want to hear him. Many took the advice and headed for the door.

"I don't think they want to hear it," Kay told Blittersdorf, who quickly wrapped up his remarks.

Much to the consternation of those opponents, the power to approve wind farms has not with local communities, but with the Public Service Board, a state-wide regulatory body. Still, local sentiment can sway the PSB, and, at the urging of opponents, the selectboard scheduled an advisory vote on October 1.

Blittersdorf said that even though town officials knew for weeks that they were going to vote, Kay called him less than 48 hours before the meeting to invite him to give a 20-minute presentation. He was in Boston and decided he didn't have enough time to put it together. He said he was "saddened."

An overflow crowd turned out to Jamberg Town Hall to vote 274 to 9 against the turbines.

Meanwhile, Blittersdorf accused the selectboard of meeting in secret to discuss his project. While records are not comprehensive, he appears to have a point. On October 19, the selectboard, which is legally required to convene only in public and with advance notice, acknowledged in a statement attached to minutes from the meeting that it had constituted an "error" by convening with project opponents behind closed doors.

Blittersdorf said he has retained an attorney but has no desire to pursue legal action against the town. He also noted that Jamberg has no zoning or planning regulations, allowing property owners great freedom.

"All we want is for there to run their meetings appropriately," he said. "We

follow all the rules. What we want — I shouldn't use the term 'grown-up conversation' — but we want to have a dialogue about what we're proposing."

Kay declined to comment. Some opponents said that Blittersdorf has probably been treated too harshly in the meetings. "People were passionate, and they weren't in the mood to listen," Jackson said. "I think that's a fair point."

On October 27, Blittersdorf, at home in Charlotte, received a grant right-take call on his cellphone from a game camera on his Jamberg property.

An intruder had left something by his front gate. Blittersdorf called police, who found a severed deer head.

Blittersdorf and most residents believe it was a message inspired by the animosity. Police don't have any leads, and Blittersdorf is offering a \$1,000 reward. He and his lab also received threatening phone messages,

which he's reported to police.

"We've seen in history, you can do things in a mob situation that are really bad, and people get caught up, and they come to regret it," he said.

For now, the battle has moved to the PSB. Blittersdorf has not yet filed an application for the project, but its opponents have suggested to the PSB that Blittersdorf's smaller turbines should have required permits when they were installed in 2010.

Blittersdorf is fighting that allegation and has made it clear that the bid for the large-scale turbines will continue. He hopes to undertake 10 similar projects in Vermont in the next decade.

Meanwhile, Jamberg residents have taken a step that, until a few months ago, seemed unthinkable in the town that has historically eschewed municipal regulations. In October, the selectboard imposed a planning commission to map out a town plan governing land use. Commissioners hope to complete a proposal by Town Meeting Day.

The subjects of the first two chapters of the plan include regulations and renewable energy. ☐

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Will Highway Safety Put the Brakes on Legalizing Pot in Vermont?

BY TERRI HALLENBECK

Vermont State Police Lt. John Flannigan was at his son's basketball practice after hours on December 1 when he got a text message, asking if he was available to return to work to test a man suspected of drugged driving.

According to police, they'd gotten calls about a driver stopped in traffic on busy Route 15 in Jericho that night. The vehicle's headlights were off. Troopers suspected Kyle M. Murphy of drugged driving and brought him in.

Flannigan is one of 38 Vermont law-enforcement officers qualified to screen drivers for illegal substances. Police can't process a suspected drugged driver without such a consultation.

Flannigan arrived at the Williston station a half hour later and took Murphy through a 12-step process — a coincidence of terminology that is not lost on the troopers. Officers who share his expertise carry laminated cards outlining how to detect telltale signs of impairment. These manuals, for example, can indicate a person is on stimulants, the reverse, depressants. Flannigan took Murphy's pulse, examined the size of his pupils in three light settings, checked his blood pressure and looked up his nose for traces of drugs.

After about an hour, the 34-year veteran of the Vermont State Police, who's been a drug-recognition expert since 2005 concluded that Murphy was under the influence of both a depressant and marijuana.

Police customarily request that suspects go to a hospital for a blood test to confirm the drug-recognition officer's findings. Murphy said he'd. So state police charged him with possession of a controlled substance — they found prescription drugs in the car — and refused to submit to a blood test.



When troopers suspect a driver is drunk, they can screen him or her on the side of the road using quick and easy-to-use breathalyzer devices, then follow up at the station with a more sophisticated DataMaster evaluation, the results of which hold up in court. Any cop can administer such sobriety tests.

Testing for drugged driving is not as simple. There is no established standard akin to the 0.08 percent blood alcohol content that indicates a driver has had too much. In drugged-driving cases, a specially trained officer must observe drivers in a controlled setting to conclude if they are under the influence.

The potential impact on highway safety has lawmakers worried as they waded into the 2016 legislative session and a debate about legalizing the recreational use of marijuana.

Testing drivers for overconsumption of alcohol is a well-known process, and Sen. Dick Wilson (D-Grand Isle), who runs a general store in Colchester that sells wine and beer, said for marijuana, he said, "I don't even know what it looks like."

"Where do we go to find out where we have in place a workable," said Marzra,

who chairs the Senate Transportation Committee. "I don't think that's going to be a simple thing."

Supporters of legalization argue that it's illogical to ignore the fact that Vermonters are already using marijuana illegally.

"People are smoking pot and driving now, and I believe a regulated market will give us more ability to regulate what they're smoking," said Gov. Peter Shumlin, a legalization supporter.

Rep. Chris Pomonis (D-Barre), sponsor of a bill to legalize marijuana, said he doesn't think anyone doing drugged-driving testing will derail the legislation. "Those are legitimate concerns," Pomonis said. "I have them today, and I'll have them in a road and regulated world."

Shumlin, who is heading into his last year as governor, also downplayed the testing challenge, though he acknowledged there might be other barriers to legalizing marijuana next year. "We're still trying to figure out whether this is the right time to do it," he said, citing for a phased-in "Vermont-style approach" to putting pot on par with beer.

What does that mean? Holding off on legalizing the sale of edible marijuana products in Colorado because poison sites weren't clearly marked. The governor was otherwise vague, noting that he's still monitoring how legalization is working in other states.

He's not alone. Glenn Davis, highway safety manager for the Colorado Department of Transportation, regularly gets calls from legislators, police and reporters in other states seeking lessons from the first state to legalize. Davis warned that pinpointing the impact of legalization is difficult.

Are his state's roads less safe today than they were before legalization

in 2012? "I can't say," Davis answered. "I think in five years, we'll be able to have a snapshot." He noted that statistics don't date back far enough to establish clear trends.

"Quite challenging," Davis said. "Our fatalities are kind of on the uptick, but I truly cannot say marijuana is a factor in them."

Flannigan, who is the Vermont State Police traffic operations commander and coordinator of the state's drug-recognition experts, declined to offer his opinion about legalization. Although he said he'd leave that to higher-ranking state officials, his warnings are evident.

"Drugs are much different than alcohol," Flannigan said. "With alcohol, we've got centuries of research and data. One drug could affect you differently than that affects you."

Supporters of legalization contend that driving under the influence of marijuana is less dangerous than driving drunk. A National Highway Traffic Safety Administration study released in February supports that claim.

Trooper Jerry Portis, another certified drug-recognition expert with the

state police, said his field experience suggests otherwise. Marijuana "can be a very dangerous drug with some body behind the wheel," he said.

A September report by the Rocky Mountain High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, a group formed to combat drug trafficking, bolsters that argument, stating that marijuana-related traffic fatalities rose by 33 percent in Colorado after the state legalized recreational use of pot in 2016. As an aside, however, the report's authors admit, "This report will cite data sets with terms such as 'marijuana-related' or 'limited positive for marijuana.' That does not necessarily prove the marijuana was the cause of this incident."

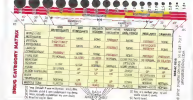
In other words, if alcohol or another factor was the overriding cause of an accident but the driver had some signs of having used marijuana, the crash would count as marijuana-related.

"It's a very misleading report," said Matt Stone, New England political director and legislative analyst of the



pre-legislation Marijuana Policy Project. He noted that Tim Gorman, the director of the group behind the report, was a leading opponent of legislation.

As authorities look for information, they are exploring new potential additions for policing. Until July, Vermont was overseeing a pilot project experiment with a roadside saliva test for



Curtis' blood helped police detect impairment.

drug impairment. Although he has yet to publish the results of the yearlong effort, he said all indications are that the SAs test is as accurate as more expensive and difficult to obtain blood and urine tests.

The saliva-testing machine is the size of a toaster. The suspect puts a plastic tube under his or her tongue for 60 to 90 seconds, switching it back and forth to collect saliva. The trooper inserts the tube into the machine, which draws out a receipt showing levels of screen drugs, including marijuana.

If that test was available for regular use in Vermont, it might ease the fears of some legislators reluctant to legalize pot. Rep. Dave Patten (D-Clarendon) doesn't support legislation, not of concern is whether more marijuana use among vulnerable young people. But he is in-troduced legislation that would make the saliva test standard for Vermont police

in drug-driving cases. He hopes his bill will gain regardless of what happens with pot laws. A former driver education instructor in Portland, he said, "I think it will make our roads safer."

In Colorado, nearly two years after legislation, police rely instead on the state's 250 drug-recognition experts, Davis said. That state is training more of them, using revenue raised from marijuana sales taxes, Davis said. He recently reminded that other states considering legislation do the same.

Colorado also uses marijuana money for public education about drugged driving — including posting signs in marijuana stores warning people against operating a vehicle while under the influence. Said Davis: "People don't know you could get a DUI from marijuana." ☐

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A Man of Letters: Jay Parini Talks About Writing, Memory and Gore Vidal

BY ETHAN DE SEIFE

JAY PARINI'S *Empire of Self: A Life of Gore Vidal*, published in October, is not the first biography of the late writer, novelist and political pundit (1925-2012). Indeed, Vidal's status as a larger-than-life figure in American letters fairly assures that bookshelves will continue to groan with inquiries into his life. What distinguishes *Empire of Self* is a perspective that no other Vidal bio, current or future, can offer. Parini was close friends with his subject for decades.

A chance meeting in Italy in the mid-1960s soon blossomed into a friendship that survived despite Vidal's notorious grudge snes and vanity. "It's very difficult to be friends with a narcissist," said Parini, a professor of English at ~~WISCONSIN COLLEGE~~ and the author of numerous works of fiction, poetry and biography. "Especially somebody whose narcissism is almost on a clinical level."

Yet, as *Empire of Self* ably demonstrates, Vidal was far more complex than his public persona suggested. As evasive and victoriously witty as any American writer since Thoreau, he was also an ardent political commentator, an alcoholic and a semi-out gay man before such

a declaration was widely accepted. Parini's book addresses these and other facets of Vidal's personality as it emerges from his subject's troubled childhood to his difficult decline.



BOOKS

Though Parini is not a character in the book per se, he was present at many of the events about which he writes. The author acknowledges his personal acquaintance with his subject in 13 "interchapters." These are first-person accounts taken from journals that Parini kept for years, knowing that someday—after Vidal's death and with his full consent—they'd be folded into this long-planned biography.

Parini speaks by phone with *Seven Days* about the ways in which a personal connection with one's subject both complicates and enriches the biographer's art.

SEVEN DAYS: What were the challenges in writing a biography of someone you knew so well?

JAY PARINI: Well, it was very difficult. I'm actually creating a hybrid genre for this book, which is part biography, part memoir. I was in both as curable situations and an awkward situation. It's evitable because I actually knew Gore, talked and walked and what his daily life was like. The hard part, the awkward part, was that it was difficult to be objective about somebody you're having a friendship with. But I decided it was worth taking the plunge. So the book has the benefits of my knowing Vidal, and it suffers from my knowing Vidal, as well.

SD: I was struck by a sentence in the introduction: "[Vidal] required a hall of mirrors for adequate reflection, and there was never enough."

JP: Gore really had very little inner self that I could detect, and he required reflection, intense reflection, to have any sense of who he was, where he was. One of the first things he'd say when he'd call me from Italy was "What are they saying about me?" This came a lot of his work. It's pretty obvious, if you look at any of the YouTube interviews, that he was seeking the world's opinion all the time. He was a man who loved to see reflections of himself, reproductions of himself, and he was capable of projecting this figure called "Gore Vidal," who's part fiction, onto a wide public screen in ways different from

SD: In your first interchapter, you remark that all too many is important. Is that a disclaimer intended to suggest that we should take anything written about Gore Vidal with a grain of salt?

JP: That was intentional. I was once sitting with Gore and Erica Jong in Austria. He said to Erica, "What are you working out?" She replied, "I'm writing my memoirs." He said, "Ah, at last, you're turning your hand to fiction!" I think that Gore always assumed that memoir was the highest form of fiction. We create stories in our heads out of the materials in our heads. Memories are

TELLING IT LIKE IT IS

Anyone who has seen a production of Tim Crouch's *The Vagina Monologues* knows that the 1996 play reinvented the notion of storytelling. The show consists of a group of actresses who talk about the female experience—

everything from body image to sexual assault to painful mutilation—and has been adapted hundreds of times around the world. When we first appeared, chorine Schwenck of the *New York Times* called

it "probably the most important piece of political theater of the last decade." That was then. While VM continues to be produced, its issues of gender identity and violence have gained social and political currency since the late 90s. The means of communication have

expanded too, from Twitter to—the

KINGDOM MONOLOGUES
That's what End Allergypresident HANNAH PEARCE, 25, calls her nascent storytelling project, which you might

The 1st annual

Kingdom Monologues

Series of varied public speeches, stories, poems and dialogues at the Oxford English

decade as *The Vagina Monologues* meets the Web. Her focus is on stories about sexual and relationship violence, sexual identity exploration, insecurity or celebration, gender identity, their bodies and the interactions these topics have with race, disability, mental illness, class or body image. That's clearly covers a lot of territory—and the project is open to people of all genders.

Pearce grew up the youngest of five children in a family farm, went to college in Montana—where she says she did advocacy work and performed—and returned last year to her home state. *The Vagina Monologues*, she says, are "well known and popular and so I have relevance" but frankly they're a little outdated. Pearce says she wants to create a production that's relevant to and

fiction-making machines. They select certain details and omit other details, and they often alter the sequence of events.

SD: When you spent time with Vidal, were you taking mental notes for the eventual biography?

JP: Oh, yeah. I was actually working on this book — sometimes fullheartedly, sometimes ambivalently — pretty much from the late '80s. I even wrote a large piece of the manuscript in the '90s. Frankly, [the book] was on my mind from about 10 minutes after I first met Gore — [I knew] that somehow I would write about him. I was working, on the one hand, as my good friend would work with somebody like that at the end of his life. On the other hand, I was mentally recording — sometimes actively recording, in my diary — what was going on.

SD: How did the book's thoroughness and life emerge?

JP: The thoroughness first emerged. When I was reading an early book review that [Vidal] did in the '50s. He reviewed Robert Graver's translation of *Satanstoe*. The Twelve Censors, and said that a good biographer has to find both the angel and the monster in his subject. I thought, This will be my theme, coupled with the theme of the empire of self. The governing image of Gore was a kind of Roman emperor in exile. He lived in a beautiful villa, surrounded by servants, in great luxury, but nevertheless in isolation and

misrecognition of the community she lives in. It's a cool way to experience other people's stories, get more understanding of [traumatic] things that have happened to people in your community but to also celebrate gender" she says.

Right now Pearce is selecting stories via email and says she'll workshop with contributors to fine tune their presentations. The goal is a performance in the H&M next spring. Here legends can be no longer than 10 minutes. Pearce says are could last just 30 seconds. "It's powerful enough."

She also uses a loose definition of "monologue." A presentation might be



**I'M ACTUALLY
CREATING A HYBRID
GENRE FOR THIS BOOK,
WHICH IS PART BIOGRAPHY,
PART MEMOIR.**

JAY PARINI

at the fringes of the American political scene.

SD: You write in your conclusion that "a biographer is not a judge." Do you really believe that to be true? Isn't it part of the biographer's art to somehow judge his or her subject?

JP: I think that I tried not to be a judge. For example, I describe his sex life — which was, shall we say, prolific — without being judgmental. I don't care who he slept with or how often. I am totally unjudgmental about his

sexual life. His drinking was neither big thing that I tried to be descriptive of rather than judgmental about. It's not exactly a secret that Gore was somewhat tormented by his actuality and alcoholism. These are just two facts I don't make a judgment. I just present a case. My bigger role, as a critic, is to say, "I prefer this book to that book." I also tried to be very, very clear about this. I don't fudge it even slightly. I always say exactly what I thought about his various books, things I liked and things I didn't like.

SD: What has writing about Gore Vidal taught you about writing?

JP: Gore was something of a mentor, so he taught me a lot about how to sustain narrative tension and to shape a passage so that it has a rise and fall. He taught me a lot about crafting sentences. I feel like I learned a great deal and absorbed some elements of his own style. I liked the way his diction would rise to more erudite levels and descend to more colloquial phrases. I tried in many ways to use Gore's style in writing about him. Gore himself was a wonderful biographer, and I think I learned a lot about the art of telling a true story from him. ☐

Contact ethan@sevenandseventy.com

INFO

Empire of Self: A Life of Gore Vidal. Boundary Books. 466 pages. \$36

PAMELA POLSTON

Contact: pamelap@sevenandseventy.com

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Invited to read your story on December 31 to monologues@sevendaysvt.com and follow the project's Facebook page.

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Staging Ground: With a New Work, Burlington Theater 'Lab' Begins

BY SADIE WILLIAMS

As the days grow shorter and war artificially illuminated nights grow longer, Burlington actor and playwright **ANDREW GULLIBORN**'s newest work provides a timely commentary. A staged reading of his *Blind Maze* (Themes of Darkness) on Saturday, December 18, will close a three-day series for the **DRAMATIC ARTS** inaugural season of a yearlong series of works by local playwrights called Original Content at Off Center (OC@OC). This last harvest includes a new beginning, too. The reading is a trial run for Gulliborn's newest dramatic venture, the **NEW ENGLAND THEATER LAB**.

"I'm interested in the process of creating new work," says Gulliborn, who is also a teaching actor for **WARMING UP** playwrights projects. "Many plays that local writers produce have a short time in the run, and they don't get a lot of development time." Through NETL, he aims to provide playwrights with workshop environments, including "cold readings, staged readings and even



workshopped productions," essentially offering the human resources they need to develop a script fully.

In Gulliborn's case, the staged reading will allow him to test one of three potential endings for *Blind Maze*. The

playwright wavered when attempting to pin down the piece to a particular genre, finally settling on "dramatic moment theater" (Despite the grim title, he says the work has elements of comedy).

In its raw state, the script is fantastical tale of angels, devils and human greed across two universes, the latter facing trial for crimes against nature such as "the theft of natural darkness through the introduction of artificial light." Gulliborn explains: A remarkably expensive light switch serves as a metaphor for the concept of how "we are becoming more and more separated from the world, and each other, through artifice," Gulliborn says.

It's a pointed reversal of the traditional Prometheus tale — a god brings fire to Earth to give humanity — that points technological advances as detrimental to human psychic and moral health. At the same time, Gulliborn explores the concept of humanity's inner connectedness with the environment. "This is love with the idea of connection

between people and people, people and places," he says.

Gulliborn drew inspiration from the work of scientist Philip Steadman. "He believes that we're all actually connected in some invisible way," he says. The concept, which depicts consider pseudoscience, is illustrated literally in the script. It calls for a long piece of fabric to be woven through the theater "so that each audience member has contact with it." Gulliborn explains:

DRUM CARROLL THEATRE COMPANY, which Gulliborn helped launch in the early '90s, is producing *Blind Maze*, with music composed by **ANDREW GAY CURRIE** (She also composed the score for Gulliborn's *Sea Room*, which won a Vermont Contemporary Playwrights Forum Award in 2003 from theater company **MOON PRODUCTIONS**.)

Purposeful, Gulliborn says, he will either hold a Q&A session to solicit feedback from the audience or ask for input via email. In the spring, he hopes to write a call for submissions and select a script

Overnight Projects Makes Place Part of the Artistic Vision

BY RACHEL ELIZABETH JONES

For two days last August, the unusual and somewhat controversial exhibition "An Order" occupied the site of Burlington's former orphanage, St. Joseph's Convent by Mainland artist **ANDREW MOSKOW**. The show had a significance that hinged on its chief public "resurrection" of a deeply storied building. Moskow and four other local artists — **WYATT GORDA GARCIA**, **SARAH O'DONNELL**, **KERIMUN PRUDHOM** and **REAY COMPTON** — created installations specific not just to the orphanage's physical location but to its fraught emotional and historical space.

In the wake of that show, Moskow and O'Donnell have teamed up to launch **OVERNIGHT PROJECTS**. They describe it as a nomadic experiment in curating "immersive environments" with a focus on activating "abandoned and in-between spaces." The pair explains that the venture evolved directly from their eagerness to keep exploring the concepts underlying "An Order" — site specificity,



historical engagement, secondary and collaboration. The project also represents a turn away from what both artists identify as the prevalence of painting and object-based work in Vermont.

"We're hungry for that community [created by 'An Order'] — we want to keep it going," says Moskow.

Overnight Projects' inaugural site will be 139 Pine Street, the **BARRETTEN** co-ops space where, earlier this year, **LOW HANGERS**'s *Structures* Project orchestrated a delightfully hectic series of tech-fueled performances. As the newest

THE PROJECT REPRESENTS A TURN AWAY FROM THE PREVALENCE OF PAINTING AND OBJECT-BASED WORK IN VERMONT.

BICA Pine Street artists-in-residence, Moskow and O'Donnell will have the run of the studio until the end of February. They'll host two joint installations by

four artists, as well as "studio programming." They hope the latter will include screenings of George Rusch's films curated by LA-based writer and film scholar David Mervin and a Skype presentation on the intersections of art and comedy from Mike Calvey Fagan, a visiting assistant professor of sculpture at Indiana University Bloomington.

In January, New York City-based artists Andrew Reichen and Jennifer Laster Smith will install "Triangle Circle Square," a three-channel video installation that uses footage of geometric shapes the artists have placed in natural environments, such as diox hovering over a field. Instead of traditional flat screens, the films will be projected onto what Reichen and Smith call "sculptural screens" — a square, triangle and circle for the corresponding images. The artists blur the rhythm of their footage editing to a "just session or song," with a soundtrack from Brooklyn-based recording artist Lux Miao Reichen and

to workshop next fall. "It wouldn't matter if it was a core playwright who's never had their work produced," Gullikson says. "The selection will be based on the merits of a particular script."

Off Center cofounder and president **PAUL ADAMS** says the organization

"totally supports and will facilitate (Gullikson's) endeavor" in any way it can. Though the nonprofit usually screens playwrights in the Burlington area, Adams notes that "it's like the black box venue to be 'the home for original theater in the state.'"

Gullikson takes it a step further: "This is my vision. Off Center will become the center for new-work development in the region. Which is a pretty dramatic thing to say, but I think there's a lot of talent beyond Vermont in playwrighting that doesn't have a venue."

Before actor and playwright and Green Circle president **LAUREN HARR** sees the need, as well. "There are so many people in this community that need

that support," he says. "As playwrights, we need the support of other artists to help us bring our work beyond the page. Jordana is just another way of bringing the theater community together."

It's not a new concept. NETL is in line with efforts already under way at Off Center. **PLAYMAKERS**, a monthly series initiated by **WEN JAVIA**, offers local playwrights the opportunity to share their new work through staged and cold readings. The pieces, such as

Man see NETL, as an exciting expansion of the resources. "Everyone's doing original work, so why not come together to support each other? We can't do it alone," he says. "Jordana has always been a leader in that conversation." @

INFO

Aloud: More (Theater of Deceits) by Jordan Gullikson. Saturday, December 10 at 8 p.m. at Off Center for the Dramatic Arts in Burlington. Get a group discount: offcenter.org

Smith, a couple, have been working side by side for six years, but this will be their first collaborative work.

Next, local artists **ORNA MEYER** and **RABECCA WISNIA** will install an installation project centered to the Moth Cinema of art and science. **INNOVATION NATURE** is Jordana, who spoke in Burlington in October. Still untitled, Wisniewski and Hoffman's work will incorporate live native moths and worms in a suspended, transparent housing. A video feed will record the creatures' motion and project it onto the walls, floor and ceiling.

Both Hoffman and Wisniewski teach at **BURLINGTON COLLEGE**. Hoffman is chair of the art and design department, as well as gallery curator, and Wisniewski as an adjunct professor of experimental film and art theory.

Mesker and O'Donnell consider their upcoming tenure at 339 Pine a test run for Overnight Projects and say they're grateful for BGA's "supportive piloting." BGA was a composer, along with Burlington College, of "An Order." The two are hopeful that their projects will attract contemporary artists from outside Vermont. And, they note, they intend to reimburse all artists with

when they work for travel and material expenses. Documentation, catalogs and critical consideration are other possible structures.

"The idea that artists should constantly be working at a loss is a huge problem," declares O'Donnell.

As for future aims, she and Mesker mention storefronts and a former train depot in New Haven. "Our intention is to find wonder and wonder locations," Mesker says. O'Donnell adds, "I personally love the detective work of [finding out] who owns a place [and asking], 'Do we approach the township? Do we approach the property owner?'"

As Overnight Projects evolves, it promises to be a energetic addition to the local art scene. Unfettered to a physical location, an experimental structure aims to draw out the significance of place by activating overlooked spaces and neglected histories. As O'Donnell says, "Learning the history of the place becomes an important piece of the project. You're never working in a void." @

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Being Veronica

I was a week after the Paris terrorist attack, and the Queen City was experiencing the aftermath. Not that people weren't enjoying their weekend, but the feeling on the streets was subdued, the usual revelry turned down a few notches.

A large video screen stands atop the front doors of Nectar's downtown nightclub. Throughout the night, it shows passively passive shots of the band playing inside, as well as scenes of upcoming shows. This weekend, all of that was replaced by two alternating color photos. One depicted the French flag, three vertical bands of blue, white and red. The second was a design that had gone viral in the past week: the Eiffel Tower poses symbol.

How awesome is Nectar's? I thought. There's a good reason it's lasted 40 years and is still going strong. Every time I drop past, my attention and posture went to our French brothers and sisters.

Coming up on the corner of Church and Main, I noticed two people, a man and a woman, in the process of saying goodbye to a friend — a short Asian person with soft, shoulder-length brown hair. Decades of cab-driving told me to dock the staff for a moment and just a line. I pulled over, got the attention of the threesome with a pointing forefinger and, sure enough, looked a fish.

As my passenger settled into the backseat, I asked, "Where is brother?"

"Brother?" said my customer, mildly annoyed but with a trace of whimsy. "Oh, well," she went on, sighing. "I am working on my wince. Anyhow, could you take me to Union Street in Winsco?"

"Excuse, sorry?" I said, shifting back into drive. "Winsco it is."

I felt bad about my case of mistaken identity, though I realized that a transgender person probably faces this daily, especially during the period of gender

AS SHE RETRIEVED THE MONEY FOR THE FARE, I TURNED IN MY SEAT TO GET A BETTER LOOK AT HER.

transition. I need to be more observant, I chided myself.

Shaking off the funk pos, I asked, "So, didn't have a fun night out on the town?" "Oh, yes," she replied, brightening. "Me and my friends ate at the Fernhouse. I don't think you can get a bad meal there."

"So I've heard from many of my customers. And I dig the fact that it used to be a McDonald's. Dryn work as a waitress?"

Recognizing the slightly insane quality of my questioning, I checked to

myself I guess I was trying to make up for my "brother" comment by a show of super attentiveness. If it was obvious to my customer, she graciously pretended not to notice.

"I have two jobs, and I love them both," she told me about her reception position at a local college and sales job at a department store. "They're actually quite similar. It's all about customer service, and I just love people."

"I can tell that," I said over my shoulder as we took a turn onto Colchester Avenue. "What about your name? Have you chosen a new one?"

"Yes, a first and middle name — Veronica Rose. I always loved both of those girl's names."

"They do seem to fit together nicely. That must be cool, to choose a new name. I guess it's an interesting time for the transgender community. For the first time, the reality of your lives has reached the greater public. It's really on the major news. And, of course, there's you know who all over the media landscape."

Veronica Rose chuckled. "Oh, yes — the one and only Caitlin. Not the perfect public spokesperson, but why should she have to be? She just gets to be herself, and there's the whole point, isn't it?"

"That's really well said," I replied. "That's the whole point, exactly."

As we circumvented the Winsco traffic circle, I thought about the resistance — the pushback, as common

paraphrase has it — to transgender rights. Why do these people need to make such a fuss? That sentiment, at some variation, is widespread in the public discourse. First it was black people, then women, then the gay — I mean, who's next?

But, as Veronica Rose put it, that's the whole point. Every person, by virtue of their humanity, should get to be who they are without fear of public reprisal or victimization. I think it's as simple and profound as that. In my book, this is the truest response to the blood on the streets of Paris.

We pulled up to my customer's home. As she unlocked the doorway for the fare, I turned in my seat to get a better look at her. While I had initially mistaken her for a man, now I saw she had a shy, feminine beauty about her, with dark almond eyes and a pretty curl in her mouth.

"You know what?" I said. "You really do make for a good-looking woman."

"For real?" Veronica Rose said with a laugh. "Because that's what I'm going for?"

Smiling, I said, "Well, my dear, you're well on your way."

All these stories are true, though names and locations may be altered to protect privacy.

INFO

Hackie is a twice monthly column that can be read on www.eventualcity.com. To reach Jeremian write hackie@eventualcity.com.

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Dear Cecil,

Whenever I approach a high-up balcony railing, or look over some cliff, I get this urge to jump. It's even got a visceral component: that sub-solar-plexus twinge, if you know what I mean. I have to step away quickly, or hold on tightly. I'm just average depressed. What's going on?

Norbert Hirschhorn, London

You and Edgar Allan Poe both, doc (the doctor — the latter writer is the well-known co-inventor of the life-saving procedure known as oral sublingual therapy). To slightly more flesh-and-blood language, the rather described a similar sensation in an 1845 short story. "Because our reason violently drives us from the brink, therefore do we the most desperately approach it. There was passion in nature as desperately important, as that of him who, shuddering upon the edge of a precipice, then mutters a phrase?"

Poe called this feeling "the leap of the Nervous Occurrence." Poe was the kind of guy who would go in for a little masochistic perversion. But what it means for the past average depressed?

More broadly, folks interested in the workings of the brain have used the imp as an extreme to explore human tendencies to engage in or at least entertain the idea of behaviors — say, jumping off the Golden Gate Bridge — that seem to run counter to our self-interest

social norms — instant exposure, undistorted spotlighting, etc.

What's important here is that, under this theory, different regions hold each other in check, impulse-wise. In Brunson's telling, the lateral PFC acts as the brakes of the car that our ex, shuddered (up to driving [hence hating this guy works as EEG machine better than he works a metaphor], and it's the medial PFC that supplies the gas. These elements together, Brunson suggests, "may keep behavior in balance." Which is why, among many other reasons, it's a bad idea to mess with the relevant hardware unless you have a good idea of what you're doing. Frontal lobectomy did remove aversive inclination, but they tended to remove all your other inclinations too.

So, one part of the brain suggests you jump, while another, clearly more parsimonious part strongly frowns the alternative. But that doesn't explain where that intense urge comes from in the first place. A 2002 study published in the *Journal of Affective Disorders* proposes that it involves a different area of the brain: the amygdala, which governs "your circuitry." The authors, Hanna et al., turn the experience you describe "high place phenomenon" or HPP — the strong impulse to leap off a balcony experienced by both the suicidal and those

who aren't even feeling particularly depressed. Researchers surveyed subjects with and without histories of suicidal ideation regarding their experience with HPP. They found that about three-quarters of suicides reported getting the urge, but, significantly, no did more than half of those who'd never thought of suicide.

Why did all these apparently non-suicidal people feel like jumping? The researchers guess that it has to do with the way in which humans' several systems of perception, which usually operate well in tandem, can get knocked out of which by your basic high-place-type situation. Briefly, they propose that as unconscious instinct for self-preservation kicks in before you're consciously inclined with a sense of risk, and so you back away from the edge without realizing what you're doing at why. "It is not until moments later," continue the authors, "when the person tries to understand his or her behavior, that the individual's slower perceptual system kicks in and potentially contributes the safety signal (scream too close, back up) to a death wish (sneering laughter)." (How does



one arrive at this particular misunderstanding? Hanna and co., apparently not real big Freudians, venture to blame it on the typical impermanence of psychoanalytic principles, and finally on the abundance of the principles themselves.)

All just a big nervous-system misunderstanding, in other words. This is speculable work, but it's an intriguing hypothesis. What seems to be a death wish may not be as part of wish at all. Just the same, honor your Uncle Cecil and stay away from those cliffs.

INFO

Is there something you need to get straight? Cecil Adams can answer the Straight Dope of any topic. Send questions to Cecil via askthedope.com or write him (P.O. Box 696888, Chicago, IL 60669).

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Holiday Rounds

BY MARK DAVIS

Mark Giroux grew up poor. His parents made and sold Christmas wreaths every holiday season to afford Christmas presents for him and his six siblings. The whole family helped, scavenging the woods for branches, assembling the wreaths by hand and selling them door-to-door. At first, they stopped wreaths to a local businessman, but before long the family struck out on its own.

Eventually Giroux took over the family business, dubbed it Mark's Vermont Christmas Wreath Company and expanded it into an enterprise that now spans much of New England.

Throughout the holiday season, Giroux, his wife, their four children and an assortment of friends make and sell thousands of wreaths and garlands, he says. They start the wreaths, priced from \$34 to \$199, in a Derby warehouse, then drive across the region, delivering them to a vast network of aerial clients and soliciting new ones along the way.

Giroux, 50, recently took time out of a busy day of dropping off wreaths to talk about his unusual job.



SEVEN DAYS: I know you devote a lot of time to door-to-door solicitations. But do you get more customers through your website these days?

MARK GIROUX: Door-to-door, that's how we get almost all our customers. Maybe every 10th door you get a yes. When you've a kid and a lot of extras, it's more [an incentive] to sales. I'm 50 and hold now, we're different. My kids go out and take orders now. They do well.

SD: How long do your wreaths last?

MG: Outside, six weeks, eight April — let's say at least March. But there are variations. In offices, three

to four weeks, if you put them in a window with a lot of sun.

SD: Wreaths seem like something that customers could cut back on in rough times. Why have they been such a reliable seller for you?

MG: It's in my blood, I guess. We have a quality product. We arrive for nice, thick and fresh, and we have a good following. We just switched to Fraser fir wood. Not so fragrant, but more tolerant to heat. You can make an awesome wreath and, two weeks later, if the sun is hitting it right, bang — it's brown and it's our fault, and [people] are not so eager to buy from us next year.

Fraser, it's more work. It's thicker than what the wreath makers want. But we got a [Fraser] Christmas tree, and it just tolerated the heat so well. I want my wreaths to hold up. I want to have a more product. We've changed with the times, we've stepped a step. The burlap ribbon instead of velvet, things like that. The burlap ribbon has been a big hit.

SD: What is your best market?

MG: I've got good clientele in Chittenden County — [that's] the hot spot. We do a lot of car dealerships, all the small businesses. We do a lot of business in Manchester, N.H., and Springfield, Mass. On Sunday, we left at 8 p.m. and went to Portland, Maine, Manchester and West Hartford, Conn., and got back at 7 p.m. on Monday. It's not a walk in the park. It's not the hell-pipe world. It's hard on the family. The family is tired.

The kids do all aspects of the business: gathering brush, wreath making, whenever it takes. My mother's been making all the ribbons for 35 years. If it weren't for my wife ... It should be called Amy's Wreaths, my wife is the organizer. She inspired me, it's her idea, she's the real deal. And the guy who delivers with me has been doing it for 35 years. We've got the right people, we really do. It's not just me.

SD: With tighter security, has it become more difficult to do your office sales calls?

MG: Yes. A lot of offices, you can't solicit too much because they are cautious about the amount of time you take. I try to be in there for 30 seconds to a minute. Employers don't want you taking up the employees' time. I understand. I try not to go in there and be too loud. I try to keep my voice down. That's how I roll. I don't really deal with the customers as much as I used to.

SD: Where do you get the brush?

MG: We go out into the wild to cut brush. And we look for tree farmers with Fraser fir trees. If you find an evergreen orchard, which is what you should for, [you can take] the brush on the ground from whatever they cut. [But] you're not to go to it.

Disclosure: Giroux's chest hat has long included Seven Days.

Contact: mark@vermontchristmas.com, @Davis70 or 805.243.5, ext. 3.

INFO

To learn more, visit markgiroux.com.

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LocalStore

Make your brightest year
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bonus dollars in February!

In Louisiana a series of strikes throughout the holiday season, from New Year's Eve to Mardi Gras, have been organized.

Lucille the marmoset, a small, foot-hold at Chiswick Farm Soap Studio in St. Albans. She wears just a smidgen of red ribbon wrapped around her torso. Everything below is properly tucked down into charmingly short, all-glass-wash jeans.

"Weird this big garages window and I thought it would be fun," says Hargood, owner and soap maker, about the cut-throat scene. "Some people think if a product line is organic and natural it has to be boring. So notes, but Hargood is proving that wrong."

The shelves surrounding Lucile hold body builders, lip balms, shampoos and conditioners, sculpted soaps, hand body and face creams, and tanning bath beds. Another section of the store is devoted to facial hair products, including pre-shave oil, shaving cream and aftershave foam.

Chaseworth's sauges are luxurious, offering a creamy, pebble-leather and rich yet subtle scent, rather than being a single fragrance note. Supposed blends a number of essential oils to create a unique olfactory experience for each scent.

"We try to hear each her tell her own individual story—the way it smells, the way it works and the way it tastes," she says. "A lot of people don't realize how creative soap makers can be."

Year-round are the orchards and tree vines such as Mountain Air Blue figs, P. Spemann, and Coconut Ginger Lime. This time of year, seasonal specialties include Florida orange and Meyer, Christmas Tree, and Cumberly Sultan.

Though the house is no longer located in the family's 200-year-old farmhouse in Georgia, Chaseworth's signature bar is still our fave. "The bar is still part of our culture," Chaseworth says.

Indeed, the first usage is made with egg yolk from the Kentucky blue chickens and honey because of the sweetener oil from the nearby. It has an earthy fragrance with a hint of lavender. A sprinkle of dried purple buds and key golden calendula petals adorns the textured top. The paper wrapper shows off a painting of Molly the chicken and Martha the sheep by Victorian artist Susan Temperley. Most of the soap wrappers feature work by local artists who receive credit on the packaging. The rubs, scents and Marjorie

Renard's Safflower Oil Soap line, which contains oil from flowers grown and

pressed on a ferry in the Champlain Islands (especially Verment), seasons' productiveness include Muddy Boots + Raven, Ghosts, Eastern Summer Felling, Lanes + Floral and Sweetwood.

Heipwood has been making and selling hair soap & body-care products since 1912, just a year after she learned to make soap from a friend and also served as the tutor for the process. In 2016, when her business started to take off —

Figure 10. **Figure 10: Example of a single step in the algorithm.**

decided to move the studio to downtown St. Albans.

Happesed follows traditional methods: creating her body care and shaving lotions by hand in small batches with premium ingredients. Most of these are locally sourced and organic — no petroleum products, phthalates or parabens. She uses pure essential oils as their quality asks for. Insurance most of the scents, which sell for \$6 each, or a bit less for bulk to your own sales force.

The studio's prices range from \$3 for the liposuits to \$40 for some final products. The handmade shaving product is set priced at \$10 to \$15, and a selection of superior quality razors and brushes imported from Europe rounds out the final full session with items from \$10 to \$20.

"So much of what we put on our skins is absorbed into our bodies." He goes on to say she thinks that knowing your song matter is akin to developing a relationship with the farmer who grows the cotton you find. "You trust that farmer."

And many customers trust this soap maker. The manufacturing process doesn't require certification, but Higwood nonetheless earned an advertised one through the Natural Gift Soap & Cosmetic Guild. "As a maker, I have a great deal of responsibility," she says, "and I take that seriously."

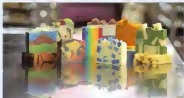
Hagwood also values the input of customers who offer suggestions or even tell needs stories. "I get brought an address line, site name, the backdoor address,"

considering that she says, "she needs an hourly considered price just both counts, for example, when customers at the Huntington Farmers Market asked about them. The fuzzy both treatments she'd researched involved to have its products. But she chooses to keep out of her products. After more study through Hingwood was able to find healthy alternatives, evaluating a coconut based foaming agent, and so the Dr. Ozworth Farm Foaming Bath Butler.

www.fox.com

"If I'm going to make a product, I want it to be natural," she says. "And I want people to feel good when they eat it all the time."

MURRAY CARRON

[illegible]



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STAYING ALIVE

BY ALICIA PERESE

"My son dropped dead in there,"

the story something else told a reporter, pointing toward his bathroom. His pronouncement was only slightly hyperbolic.

After attempting to quit heroin, "George" said, his son enjoyed how much his body could handle. As the post-quit addict's lips turned blue, his father located a plastic syringe fitted with a foam head. He inserted the foam and into his son's nostril and pushed the plunger. A moment later, the younger man was awake and breathing.

The drug George administered was Narcan, which counteracts opiate overdoses. He had it on hand that day because of a three-year state pilot program that's been providing it free of charge to addicts and their friends and family. George is also opiate-dependent, so it's conceivable his son could be called on to return the favor.

In the two years since the program started, Vermont policy leaders, cops and addicts alike have heralded Narcan as a "miracle drug." Nearly 7,000 Narcan kits have been distributed through 10 treatment facilities, recovery centers and needle exchange programs state-wide, and recipients have reported using the drug more than 400 times to reverse overdoses as of September. The total number is likely higher because not everyone checks back to offer usage.

Simply put, Narcan helps opiate addicts who aren't in treatment to stay alive. Most people have welcomed it in a state where at least 55 people — and counting — have died this year from opiate overdoses, and more than 600 are on waiting lists for drug treatment.

"I don't know how you advocate against it," said Vermont State Police Colonel Matthew Birmingham. "It saves lives. It's proven."

Chittenden County State's Attorney T.J. Donovan said that Narcan also serves as a "wake-up call" and a "portal into treatment."

But Birmingham and Donovan don't speak for everyone in the effort to address Vermont's opiate addiction crisis. Some law enforcement officers have philosophical objections to mass distributing the drug, claiming it encourages reckless behavior and actually discourages addicts from getting clean. The Burlington police union has a practical problem with it: Administering death-defying medication is not in their current job description.

Meanwhile, Vermont law requires the Department of Corrections to make Narcan kits available to inmates who are being released from prison, but no one has been offering it to them.

Even Vermont Health Commissioner Harry Chen worries Narcan may send a dangerous HIV message to addicts that they can manage their own overdose emergencies without calling 911. Another challenge on the horizon: The cost of the drug has risen precipitously, and officials are signaling that they won't be able to give it away free forever.

Lobbying for Life

Narcan, the most common brand name for naloxone hydrochloride, isn't a new invention. The Food and Drug Administration approved it in 1971, and emergency room doctors and EMTs have been using it to revive people for decades.

But in 2013, few Vermonters outside the medical profession had heard of it. Similarly, the state's growing opiate problem was still under the radar. That didn't stop House Speaker Skip Smith (D-Morrisville) from asking two committees to start work on a bill that addressed it — a full year before Gov. Peter Shumlin made it the centerpiece of his new-legendary State of the State address.

The House Committee on Judiciary heard testimony from Tom Dalton and Grace Keller of the Howard Center's Safe Recovery program — a Burlington-based needle exchange that offers HIV testing and provides general support to people struggling with drug addiction. The two reported they had begun to see clients dying from overdoses. They came to the Statehouse to urge lawmakers to support a "good Samaritan" bill granting legal immunity to anyone seeking medical help for an overdose.

Dalton pulled the bill's sponsor, Rep. Bill Lippert (D-Hinsburg), aside to tell him about something called Narcan. "I can tell you, personally, I had no idea what he was talking about it," recalled Lippert, who was then the committee chair. "We know nothing about it."

Opiates send signals to receptors in the brain, quelling feelings of pleasure and dulling members of pain. But too much can slow — or stop — respiration, which is the most common cause of death during an opiate overdose.

Narcan is administered as a nasal spray or a needle injection — nothing like the adrenaline injection to the heart that John Travolta delivered to revive Uma Thurman from a heroin overdose in the movie *Pulp Fiction*. Narcan works by disrupting the drug's chemical connection to the brain. Although it can take multiple doses, the drug's effect is almost always immediate. Within a few minutes, the person wakes up breathing without apnea — sweating, shaking, disoriented and severely nauseous.

Dalton suggested to Lippert that this obscure drug should be distributed to the masses. Although it sounded radical at first, Lippert's committee warmed to the idea. The group heard from people running successful community distribution programs in Chicago and Massachusetts, who said the risks were minimal. Narcan is easy to administer; it isn't addictive, and, if mistakenly used on someone who hasn't taken opiates, it has no effect.

In the end, the Vermont Department of Health agreed to create a three-year pilot program without any additional appropriation. It would get a prescription for Narcan, develop a training manual and distribute the antidote to treatment centers that would teach their clients how to use the drug at home.

The highs and lows of overdose-reversing Narcan



All but one judiciary committee member approved, and the legislature voted overwhelmingly in favor of the final bill, which both democratized access to the antidote and allayed concerns about being prosecuted for using it.

In December 2013, Safe Recovery became the first pilot site to receive the drug from the health department. Nine syringe exchanges, treatment facilities and recovery centers — in Bennington, Berlin, Brattleboro, Middlebury, Newport, Rutland, St. Albans, St. Johnsbury and White River Junction — followed its lead.

Staff at Safe Recovery started offering Narcan to anyone who came through their doors. Kiefer said she

gave out 60 doses on a single day. She administered it several times, too, to save clients. On one occasion, someone brought in a young man who'd stopped breathing. Another employee called 911 while Kiefer calmly gave him Narcan. Nothing happened. After a second dose, she started performing rescue breathing. After the third dose, he woke up immediately and started asking questions: "Who are you? What's going on?"

As of September, Kiefer and her colleagues had handed out more than 2,500 kits to clients who've reported using it 266 times to reverse overdoses — the bulk of the known incidences. Three of those can be attributed to George, who said he's used Narcan on two other addicts in addition to his son.

Serve, Protect — and Spray?

In January 2014, the Standa administration announced that all state troopers would keep Narcan in their vehicles. Then colonel Tom L'Esperance called it the "most important I've ever had to make." The Vermont Department of Public Safety pays for the drug, which is supplied by the health department. Troopers have "deployed" it six times so far this year, according to Birmingham. Even when the EMTs have arrived first, it's proven essential.

On April 23, a mother called 911 after finding her 19-year-old son, Kenneth Syphax, unconscious on the kitchen floor of their Bethel home. When the

White River Valley ambulance squad arrived, they gave him five doses of Narcan. They'd exhausted their supply, and Syphax still hadn't stirred. But by that time, four state troopers had also arrived, each carrying Narcan. The sixth and final dose revived the teen, who police later determined had used heroin spiked with fentanyl, a more potent drug that requires larger quantities of Narcan to counteract.

The practice — of bringing addicts back to life — is catching on among local law-enforcement departments. A tally by the public safety department at the beginning of the year found that 10 clerks had equipped their officers with Narcan.

Staying Alive BY JEFF KATZ

Several others, including in Rockwood and Barre City, have embraced it since that cause.

EMTs at the Burlington Fire Department have carried Narcan for decades. In a city where overdoses have been on the rise, in a county with a 300-person waiting list for treatment, one might assume that Burlington's 100 or so police officers would be carrying it, too. They haven't been.

Behind the scenes, Narcan has been the subject of a disagreement between the police administration and the union representing officers, which are in the midst of a protracted contract negotiation. The union has argued that carrying Narcan constitutes a new duty and therefore needs to be approved as part of the collective bargaining agreement.

"It's a change of work," said Officer David Clements, who is the union president. "It's a medical procedure that's not something we have provided."

Burlington officers aren't the only ones who've made this argument. In Sumnerville, Mass., officers objected to being required to carry Narcan on the grounds that it was an expansion of their duties and therefore a breach of their contract.

Chief Brandon del Peto, who took the news in September, has maintained that he can mandate it unilaterally. He plans to do so before the end of this year — with or without the union's blessing.

Del Peto said his sympathetic to the Burlington union's position — but only to a point: "I think that's a valid concern, but considering how easy Narcan is to administer and ... how it's been demonstrated to save lives ... it seems a reasonable expansion of our responsibilities." A moment later, he corrected himself: "—Not an expansion, it's an evolution."

According to Clements, the union is "not necessarily" seeking additional compensation. "Most of the concerns are about how it's going to be carried out," he said, of the protocols for how and when Narcan will be used. When someone is revived with Narcan, "things can go a little crazy," he noted, meaning there's the potential that an individual under the influence would respond violently.

Del Peto said his training officers last week, and he's in the midst of drafting the department's Narcan policy. If they have a say in matters related to safety, Clements' experts members will come around to the idea. "I don't view it as a bad thing. It's just something we've never used before," he said.

'See Ya Later'

Steve Prevost's road to jail was paved with addiction apathy. The Wisconsin construction worker recalled the rapid progression of his drug addiction, which began when he was a teen cycling through foster homes. "You start sniffling Percocets, eating Oxy's and then you're shooting heroin," he said.

His drug habit led him to steal, which landed him in prison in 2006, at age 20. He did his two and a half years in Greenville, Vt., and soon after being released, met up with a childhood friend. The two were in

apartment. His friend, he would later learn, had also survived. Prevost eventually sought help at Safe Recovery, where staff helped get him into treatment. After multiple relapses, he's been clean for two and a half years.

In 2016, the legislature passed a bill requiring the Department of Corrections to work with the health department to distribute Narcan to people such as Prevost — ongoing inmates with a history of drug abuse. Correctional facilities already stock the drug in case someone needs it behind bars, but studies show that incarcerated drug addicts

Prisoners who've gone through detox and have been released from the Marble Valley Regional Correctional Facility in Rutland can now receive suboxone, which discourages opiate use by blocking its euphoric effects. Officers say this initiative, funded through a federal grant, will start promptly — in January.

Of the Narcan program, Nasard said, "I would expect it to happen in the near, near future." At least at first, the DOC will only offer it in two correctional facilities: St. Albans and Chittenden.

The commissioner explained, "We're certainly not ruling out at some point it



Nurse Nasard, a nurse manager with Safe Recovery

Burlington when they got into a car with a heroin dealer [Prevost] had met in prison. They had already split three ice-packs.

As he injected two bags of heroin in the passenger seat, Prevost noticed his friend, who shot up first, gagging for air in the backseat — a sign that he was overdosing.

"Not knowing CPR, I was trying to blow air into his lungs," he said. "The last thing I remember was a mouthful of his spit in my mouth. Then everything went black."

Like his friend, Prevost had overdosed. Although he occasionally scored dope in prison, he was mostly clean at the time, he said, and his body couldn't handle that much heroin.

Seventeen hours later, Prevost woke up floating and alone in an unfamiliar

are disproportionately likely to die from an overdose during the first few weeks after they've been released from prison. A year and a half later, inmates are still leaving Vermont's jails empty-handed.

Corrections Commissioner Lisa Nasard struggled to explain the delay. "I'm just going to acknowledge that it does seem like a long time," Merred said. The challenge, she said, has been purely logistical. "It's not as simple as, 'There's a kit, so go later.'"

The corrections department still doesn't have a prescription, but it has begun to prepare staff to teach departing prisoners how to administer Narcan.

Meanwhile, on December 1, Stoughton introduced another program for outgoing inmates with opiate addiction

would be given to everyone, but initially I think it would be better to plan and understand any consequences, positive or negative."

Other institutions don't make such distinctions. According to Dulais of Safe Recovery, "We started handing it out the day we got the medication from the health department. It's not complicated."

After a rash of overdoses involving fentanyl in the Upper Valley last year, the Marlboro School Board voted in August to give Narcan to school nurses.

Perfect Prescription?

The argument for universal access to Narcan is simple: It's insurance in a new spray.

But not everyone is a believer. "It's certainly accepted, but it's not widely accepted," Deonovan said. "We agree to push the rock up the hill."

Benningsham acknowledged that within his ranks, some still harbor reservations, and "there's a philosophical view: troopers are entitled to have."

As a patrol commander at the Royalton barracks, Sergeant John Helfert deals with opioid-related incidents on a near daily basis.

"The first with carrying Narcan, and if I have the opportunity to use it, I'll definitely use it," Helfert said. But he also warns that it makes addicts more cavalier about pushing the limits. "It makes them feel comfortable," he said. "We have seen it. They are just not concerned about the dosage or the quantity." Warning against viewing Narcan as a cure-all, Helfert pointed out that it can take multiple doses to revive someone, and the minutes can wear off.

Tim Bombardieri, the Barre City police chief, and he views Narcan as just another tool law enforcement officers must use to save lives: he plans to distribute it to his officers as soon as they've been trained. But Bombardieri takes issue with the practice of handing it out at treatment centers. "That seems a little over-the-top to me," he explained. "If the point is to help people stay clean, why are we giving you Narcan in the same breath?"

As part of the training, they receive with the kit, people are instructed to call 911 after administering Narcan — in part because, as Helfert pointed out, it can wear off before the system has cleared its individual's system. But according to health department data, only 28 percent of people have heeded this instruction.

"It continues to be a concern," said Chen, adding, "I don't know that there's a very sound to it." He conceded, though, that the lengthy waiting lists for treatment statewide suggest that Narcan isn't stopping people from trying to get clean.

Smith Clark went to rehab a half-dozen times before she stopped abusing opiates, and the 36-year-old Sweet Junction mother has been drug-free for five years. She carries Narcan, just in case she encounters someone who's overdosed. "A lot of people have been saying it's not good because it encourages people to do drugs," she said, later relenting. "You need to be alive to go to treatment."

But getting help could get harder — at least in Chittenden County. Safe Recovery recently lost a \$450,000 federal grant that funded 80 percent of its operations because it was tied to HIV prevention — and Vermont's infection rate has dipped below the qualifying

threshold. The grant-supported staffers also distributed Narcan and ran the needle exchange. Most of them have already been laid off.

After applying for other grants without success, Dalton, Keller and their boss, Bob Dick, CEO of the Howard Center, are calling on the state to fill the funding shortfall.

"They've got some intellectual allies," Deonovan, who sits on the Howard Center's board, said, he thinks the Narcan movement will suffer if Safe Recovery can't secure replacement funding. Lippert is also concerned. "We would not

have Narcan available to Vermonters in the same way if it weren't for the commitment and initiative of Tim Dalton and Grace Keller. The idea that their program is subsequently in danger — is, far too, particularly difficult to comprehend."

Cough It Up

Early next year, Narcan's future in Vermont will come up for debate. With the state's pilot program scheduled to conclude next June, lawmakers will have to confront the question of cost in a comprehensive way during



The argument
for universal
access to
Narcan
is simple:
It's resurrection
in a nose spray.
But not
everyone
is a believer.

the upcoming session. The health department is drafting a report for lawmakers, evaluating the program. In the meantime, it's no longer offering Narcan to new cases.

Asked last week to give a preliminary appraisal, Chen responded, "Overall, successful." But he cautioned, "I think the question really is, is it a sustainable model for the long term?"

The question, then, was this approach? "That's something I think we're going to have to rethink," he said.

Since the program started, the cost of the drug has skyrocketed — an response to increased out-of-pocket demand.

In April, Shelden sent a letter to the Narcan manufacturer, Amphastar, urging the company to reduce the price. He noted that the health department paid \$115 for 10 doses of Narcan in

March and \$163 for the same amount in April.

Several states have struck deals with the pharmaceutical company, securing a discounted rate. Vermont has yet to score such an arrangement, but the governor's spokesman, Scott Corbett, told *Seven Days* that the administration is discussing possibilities with Amphastar.

Amphastar has enjoyed pricing discretion in part because it's offered the only version of Narcan that can be converted into a nasal spray. Its product is actually sold as a syringe, but an atomizer, purchased separately, turns the syringe into an intranasal device.

In November, the FDA approved a nasal spray made by Adapt Pharms, which doesn't require that extra step. When the new product hits the market in January, Chen expects it to "help substantially."

Although his department has been turning the bill for the total cost for the pilot program has been modest — \$165,000 from its start in 2013 to September 2015.

Long-term, though, the health commissioner plans to advocate for a more traditional — and cheaper — method of dispensing Narcan, pharmacies.

Last year, Vermont changed its laws in order to allow pharmacies to dispense the drug over the counter — yet pharmacists at Rite Aid, Walgreens and Kinsey Drugs in Burlington confirmed that their employers have yet to stock it. Even if they do, customers would be paying for it out of pocket.

Chen's vision is to make Narcan available at pharmacies, without a prescription — or, more ideally, with a standing prescription that would apply to all Vermont residents — and make Medicaid or private insurance pay for it. That would require convincing pharmacies to stock it and getting insurers to cover it. The health department would likely continue to supply Narcan to certain locations to reach people who wouldn't otherwise seek it out.

Regardless of the method, key lawmakers say they've committed to continuing to expand access to Narcan. "In the midst of this tragic epidemic, for me it's a given that we should have it widely available, without financial barriers," Lippert said.

"We'll find a way," promised Sen. Dick Sears (D-Bennington).

Prevost hopes so. "It's such a simple thing," he said. Even if the cost were to continue to rise, he suggests a blanket test for lawmakers. "What if our son was a drug addict? Would you spend \$40 dollars to keep him alive?" (D)

Contact: alicia@sevendaysvt.com



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MEDIA



Making News

A local Somali Bantu TV program is a rare — and award-winning — source for news in Maay Maay

BY KIMBERLY BARI

Illustration: Michael Eppert; Photo: Kennington, J.R.

On a Saturday morning in early December, Mohamed Muktar scribbled furiously on his legal pad, oblivious to the flurry of activity in the studio of Vermont Community Access Media (VCAM) in Burlington. Working for Muktar's weekly news program, "Somali Bantu TV," was about to start, and he was discussing the list of issues he'd be presenting. Occasionally, Muktar did a microphone test and shifted his chair toward the camera, as instructed by his cohost, Muktar Ali.

Muktar and Ali started "Somali Bantu TV" in late 2013, their show — usually an hour long — runs on Burlington's community-access channel Channel 41 four times a week and is posted on YouTube. The show is a rarity — in the U.S. and worldwide — because it's delivered in Maay Maay, a language rarely spoken by the Somali people, a persecuted minority in Somalia.

The first time Muktar, 21, saw himself on television, he felt "very proud." These days, Muktar and Ali have reason to be even prouder. Last month, they were awarded the top prize at the Alliance for Community Media — Northeast Region's 17th annual video festival in the category of social and political issues. Muktar, who was a civil war bride out in Somalia in 1992, the British born, for breast of the violence and fled to refugee camps in Kenya. Vermont received its first Somali families in 2008. Today, about 1,500 Somali individuals live in the state, according to the Somali Bantu Community Association of Vermont.

The ACM-NE award helps establish Muktar and Ali as public faces of that community — and raises their profile outside it. "Last time, we were thinking it's only for our community. For now, we

noticed that even other communities are noticing what we are doing," said Muktar, who works as a multi-faceted liaison for the Burlington School District during the day and a cleaner at the University of Vermont Medical Center at night.

Though the ACM-NE received no other entries in the category, the lack of competition doesn't diminish the work of "Somali Bantu TV," said Camille Bartlett of Peabody Access Television, who coordinated the festival. Indeed, the ages 18-24 demographic the network did not win. "It is a time-consuming effort to produce any kind of programming, even so if you are doing it on the side," she explained in an email. Last year, the nonprofessional category only had three entries, reflecting the inherent difficulty of producing such a program, she pointed out. By contrast, the professional side of the category had 18 entries.

Muktar came to the U.S. in 2005, Ali in 2004. They met in 2008, two years after the latter's move to Vermont. Before the two men created their TV show, they and their friends wrote, performed and shot comedy skits based on their experiences as refugees in Kenya, which they posted on the internet. In one such skit, Ali plays the role of an interpreter for Kenyan police officers who use force to extract a confession from a Somali suspect.

Between 2008 and 2010, the pair also made four feature films — including one in the horror genre — and distributed them through their own production company, Bantuluw Entertainment. They and Muktar were authentic. "When we shoot a movie about a challenge or experience, we feel like, *Now the story or challenge is not inside my heart or my brain,*" explained Muktar.

Of the pair, Ali, 33, who also works at the UVM Medical Center, has a bigger passion for filmmaking. He's an avid fan of Bollywood films and counts Shah Rukh Khan as one of his favorite actors. A self-taught producer and video editor, he's made a Bollywood-themed music video there and his on VCAM's website.

One of the challenges Ali said he faces in being a refugee is that his family discourages his daughters from acting, because they fear it would ruin their marriage prospects. The father of two said, "We [they women] don't going to be a player," added Muktar. "That fat, Ali has managed to cut four women in his class — though none he's seduced, he admitted, as 4 more lives in Vermont."

After dabbling in acting and filmmaking for four years, Muktar and Ali decided to create a news show. "Our goal is to make our people understand what's going on around the world. This is the only news [program] that speaks their languages. Most of them are not educated. They don't read the newspapers," explained Muktar.

For news producer Muktar, this was a dream come true. While he participated willingly in skits and films as a supporting cast member, he said he never wanted to be in broadcasting. "I want to be the first guy to start Maay Maay media," he said.

Back at the VCAM studio, Muktar and Ali started skits last time before they started filming. Their set design is simple, a small, round table and two deep-red cushioned chairs.

Muktar clipped a microphone on his brown leather jacket and, a couple of seconds later, Ali signaled the start of the show by staring straight into the middle camera and saying, "Kusamaleyskayn," the Arabic greeting often used by Muslims.



Mohamed Muktar left, and Simonson at

While one presented the news, the other listened intently as patrol notes. The two sat on a bench between the two beds were seamless, no doubt from practice. Throughout the filming, their colleague, Mahidun Abdi, remained the control room in silence.

Somali politics and the situation in Kenya's refugee camps feature prominently on "Somali Bantu TV." Both Muktar

VCAM. "We were thrilled to support their efforts. I don't know of any group from anywhere who has both a news arm and an entertainment arm," he added. "That's definitely unique to them as far as Channel 15 is concerned."

In fact, Simonson wishes "there were more non-English content on the channel" and encourages non-English speakers in Burlington to "come in and use our facilities."

Before filming, a VCAM employee typically helps Abdi set up the microphones and lighting. But Simonson observed that Muktar and Abi "like to go to a place where they don't really need the staff to help them at all."

Self-sufficiency is just the beginning of the duo's aspirations. Down the road, they said, they would like to make a film about the Somali people in Africa, as well as to open their own studio in Kenya.

Muktar reckoned they would need about \$10,000 to start their own facility in Nairobi, where they could film interviews with newsmen in Africa such as politicians, actors and actresses, showcasing their coverage as an international media presence. Such a facility would also create jobs for producers, editors and reporters in Kenya who speak Maay Maay and Af-Maay, the official language of Somalia. Muktar pointed out. To make that vision of a cross-continental Maay Maay media company a reality, he said, he'll need to "work hard" by applying for grants and fundraising in several states.

Though Muktar has no plans to leave the U.S. and head that team in Nairobi, he dreams of producing the news full time. "That's my goal, my hope," he said. ☺

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INFO

read our feature "Somali Bantu TV" at vermont.com/articles/10040404



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I WANT TO BE THE FIRST GUY TO START MAAY MAAY MEDIA.

MUHAMMAD MUKTAR

and Ali see it as their duty to educate the younger generation about their history. "They have no idea. Most of their parents are not giving them the information," Muktar lamented.

The pair received news videos and audio clips from volunteer correspondents based in Somalia and refugee camps in Kenya, and Ali edits them into the program. It usually takes him an hour to edit an episode, he said. Bantu communicates across the U.S. also send news tips to the team — which sometimes reports live, as well. In October, Muktar went to Washington, D.C., to deliver a protest rally against the treatment of the Somali people by the Somali government.

For now, the program appears without regular schedule, which Muktar and Ali said they lack the resources to provide. While acknowledging the potential of utilizing to reach a larger viewership, they stressed that the program's main target audience is Somali people.

Muktar and Ali admit the only Vermonters who see the value of starting their own community media outlet, but they're certainly the most active, said Bill Simonson, director of media services at

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A Woodcut Above

Middlebury's Maple Landmark Woodcraft branches out and buzzes with activity

BY KEN PICARD

In a second-floor assembly room at Maple Landmark Woodcraft in Middlebury, employees sit in rows of workbenches and busily pound wheels and magnets onto NameTrains, the company's alphabet-letter cars that connect to firm names and words. Once each wooden car is completed, a worker at the end of the assembly line tosses it down a rainbow-colored ramp to make sure all the wheels turn properly.

The workers don't dress as elves or wear white hats they work 40L, as they hammer the tops with wooden mallets, a playfully busy mood prevails, as though nothing is more fun during the holiday season than assembling 3,000 wooden letters per day. Watching the workers make the NameTrains, which have been Maple Landmark's bestselling product since their introduction in the early 1990s, you remind an observer of the clever toy makers in the TV holiday classic "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer."

"I've been lobbying for the red hats and curly-toed shoes, but so far I haven't had much success," quips sales manager John Gallagher. His getting this reporter a taste of the company's soon-to-be-expanded manufacturing plant in Middlebury's Rockingham Street.

This is one of Gallagher's favorite duties. On any given day, a tour here might be jotted into evening, carrying 40 or more children eager to see the factory's inner workings. "It's a blast to come through here with kids on the tour," he says. "They love it."

Maple Landmark differs from many of the other manufacturers in this Addison County industrial park. Unlike the neighboring producers of consumable goods—Woodchuck Bird Candy, Cabot Cheese Creamery, Outer Creek, Stonecutter Spices, Unimark Coffee—Maple Landmark makes toys and gifts that are meant to last a lifetime.

"I'll be at [a trade] show, and a young person will come up to me and say, 'I still have my NameTrain from when I was 5 years old. And he's 30,'" Gallagher says.

Despite such accolades and the life-size toy train parked on the front lawn, company founder and on owner

Mike Ratnoff says he never envisioned Maple Landmark solely as a "toy company." The company currently produces about a thousand different eco-friendly products ranging from cribbage boards to cutting boards, baby toothbrushes to trunks, corporate plaques to beer-top handles. They're sold throughout North America, often to museums and gift shops.

In an era when countless American toy and gift manufacturers have shuttered their operations, attention to reduce material and labor costs, Maple Landmark has thrived, carving out a niche and winning awards. The vast majority of its materials are still sourced from Vermont and Maine.

Staying local is a major draw for the many Vermont companies, nonprofits and community groups at contract with Maple Landmark for custom items. That work now represents the fastest-growing sector of Maple Landmark's business, and its client list reads like a who's who of Vermont computer firm & Jerry's, Trapp Family Lodge, Cold Hollow Cider Mill, Champlain Orchards and Vermont Country Store, to name a few.

"There's probably not a company around that we haven't done work for," says Ratnoff.

All that work has left Maple Landmark bursting at its seams. So, a few months ago, the company broke ground on a \$2.3 million expansion project that will nearly double the size of its manufacturing space—and allow room for future growth.

Does that mean its staff will also grow beyond the current 42 employees? "The expansion will allow us to actually fit 62 people in here," Ratnoff says. "We ran out of space years ago."

Ratnoff, 52, is the classic entrepreneur who seems happiest when he's thinking up new products and innovative ways to build them. In the company's first-floor workshop, which buzzes with routers, sanders and sawdust vacuums, two wooden contraptions that resemble Ferris wheels turn slowly inside a makeshift chicken wire cage. The first wheel spins wooden parts smooth, like a rock



tumbler, the second spins up access train. As Gallagher explains, Ratnoff couldn't find anyone who made such tumblers, so he built them himself.

In a nearby break room sits a large, 3D wooden schematic, which Ratnoff also made, showing the configuration of the new workshop, currently under construction at the back of the building. Though his employees could have perused the proposed blueprints on a computer, Ratnoff decided it might be easier for them to see and touch the plan and thus suggest improvements of their own.

He has always been good with his hands. As the story goes, Ratnoff began making tops as a child when, after he got on his mother's nerves, she finally told him to "go find something to do."

He did. Ratnoff began by crafting wooden toy cars, trucks, trains and cribbage boards in the basement of his parents' home in Lincoln. By the age of 15, he was selling his products via kiosk.

"We've been busy ever since," says Pat Ratnoff, Mike's 76-year-old mother, who also works at Maple Landmark. Today, she's spritzing paint on toy parts, which are laid out on drying racks like freshly baked cookies.

This time of year, Pat also hand-paints coasters and Christmas tree ornaments, not just with broad brushes, but with pens and just with broad brushes. She paints tiny detailed landscapes and script letters. "This season alone, she's already done 20 dozen ornaments by hand.

"We charge extra if she paints 'Vermont' on it," Gallagher says.

Ratnoff's mom isn't the company's oldest employee. Maple Landmark can now boast that four generations work there, ranging from Mike Ratnoff's 22-year-old son, Adam, to his 98-year-old grandmother, Marie Brown.

The latter is a petite, wispy woman with short white hair and a lilting voice. Standing at her workbench, she's not even tall enough to change the calendar on the wall, which still shows November. Below it hangs a picture postcard of the one-room schoolhouse in Lincoln where Brown taught for many years before "retiring" to this job.

When Seven Days asked, Brown is happily glazing wooden undercoasters onto toy train engines. Despite her age, she's on her feet all day and insists she doesn't mind it.

"They keep her busy up here," comments a nearby coworker.

"They say he's here to work," Brown explains to her coworker's remark. "I think he's just here to keep on eye on me."

Maple Landmark's staff has longevity, many employees have worked there for more than a decade. They include Bob Reiger, 69, who's been with the company for 15 years. He looks like a character straight out of Santa's workshop: short and stocky with bright blue

PHOTO BY KEN PICARD

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eyes, a grey goatee and a spiky smile. He's clad in a sawdust-flecked flannel shirt and green jeans.

Bozger has many responsibilities at Maple Landmark, including purchasing and inventory control. But his favorite role, he relishes telling visitors, is that of official "toy breaker."

Whether the engineering department develops a new product, Bozger explains, an independent safety lab must test it before it can go on the market. Before Maple Landmark sends a product to the lab — at \$360 to \$200 a pop — Bozger puts it through his own rigorous battery of tests. That means repeatedly dropping the item from full early specified heights onto a tiled floor. "If I break it, that means it has to be redesigned," Bozger says. "And I'll keep doing that until it doesn't break anymore."

Rigorous testing makes sense for a company that makes products such as blocks, baby cribs and cribs that will inevitably end up in children's mouths. But Maple Landmark hasn't always been in uptight about the product safety requirements as Bozger's attitude suggests. A few years ago, tightening of these requirements nearly drove many small toy makers, including Maple Landmark, out of business.

Following a record year for safety recalls of children's products due to choking hazards, lead contamination and lethal designs, Betsy, Congress enacted the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008. Initially, the recalls spelled good news for American toy makers. Since nearly all the recalled products that year had been mass-produced in China or other Asian countries, locally made goods such as those of Maple Landmark, which uses all natural materials, looked better and safer to consumers than their competitors'.

However, the CPSCA, which passed with scant industry input or congressional debate, mandated extensive third-party testing to detect harmful substances, even if a product had no

chemicals for containing the banned chemicals. All wood toys, for instance, had to be tested for plastic substances.

Roseville essentially found an independent lab that agreed with a more generous interpretation of the new law. According to his reading, Maple Landmark can, say, test each new wood item, rather than individually testing each of the dozens (or hundreds) of new products to which the item is applied.

"That was the difference between doing something that's affordable and something that was going to cost us \$1 million a year," Roseville says. "I have no issues with the regulations in place. People need to be safe. It just needs to be fair."

Luckily, the Consumer Product Safety Commission agreed with Roseville's interpretation, too. These days, he's free to devote his efforts to more glamorous pursuits, such as thinking up new product ideas.

About four years ago, Maple Landmark formed a new-product design committee that includes employees from all departments. Among the more successful suggestions, Roseville says, are those born from contemporary pop culture.

In recent years, those have included Sully the blue wooden monster, glasses, hats and ties that people hold up when taking photos. In the same year, Portrait Props are wooden blocks that can be arranged to show a child's age in words, no ribs and years.

When asked what the next big trend will be, Roseville just shrugs. Right now, he's focused on the factory expansion and getting through the holiday crunch.

"Our employees are getting overtime, which they like," he says. "If we get to Christmas and we haven't had that adventure rush, then something's not right in the world." ☐

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Quiver Me Timbers

Hunger Games fan? Try Vermont's newest sport: indoor archery tag

BY SARAH TUFF DUNN

How does it feel to be struck by an arrow squarely in the eye of the neck? Normally you wouldn't be able to answer this—because you'd be dead! But on a recent day at Shelburne's Field House, I find myself experiencing the sensation and living to tell about it, given that an arrow is tipped not with a deadly tip but with rubber and foam.

Well, it kinda hurts, which compels me to pick up my bow and start slinging arrows back at my assailant, Jeff Foll. He dodges behind a red inflatable bunker, then darts back out to shoot me again.

That, my friends, is a glimpse of Vermont Action Games, or VTAG. The acronym serves as a mashup of Vermont's portal abbreviation and the term "action games" and "tag." The game is a mashup of archery, dodgeball, kickball, paintball and soccer games, and the Green Mountain State version just debuted. (It shouldn't be confused with Vermont Action Game, an older, outdoor action game that also uses the abbreviation VTAG.) Premier Park of Wellesley Productions envisions turning VTAG, with its Renaissance Faire flair, into an organized sport that can be played year-round.

For fans of The Hunger Games, nation families and jacked athletes, VTAG just might hit the bull's eye. Regular player Anthony DeRubeis says it just accurately "It's absolutely addictive."

Proponents of VTAG have a long history as part of action role-playing (LARP) events, which can involve staged "battles." "I've been LARPing for about 30 years," Foll explains, "and about 25 years ago, someone came up with the idea of putting foam beads on arrows and using them in the games. Then, a few years ago, somebody said, 'Hey, let's do it as an organized sport.'"

And, so I find at the Field House, VTAG is well organized. Cylindrical and triangular inflatable bunkers have been lined up on the indoor soccer field, with sets of bows and arrows and bright orange cones nearby. A square of PVC piping marks the "neutral zone."

In a one-hour session of games lasting five minutes each, players line up on either side—two teams of 10—about an acre another



A Vermont Action Games participant sports a bow and arrow game.

until they run out of arrows. Physical contact is forbidden, and no projectile can be fired from closer than 30 feet—the width of the neutral zone. Players who've been shot must go to the sidelines but are soon "recycled" back into play.

The point? Don't get hit. And do hit your opponents.

"This is for anybody who's looking for something new and different," says Foll. "It's quick, easy, low impact. You come, you play, you go home. It's not taking the whole day—anybody can play."

A group of 10 to 20 VTAG players now gathers on Fridays and Saturdays at 8:30 p.m. to play the game—midlife, perhaps, to throw back a joint or two at the Field House's sports bar. Kids playing soccer at the facility have been curious enough to join VTAG games, too—which speaks to the sport's wide appeal, says Foll.

"It's a very body, gender, age-neutral game, and yet it brings that element of a little risk, a little excitement, a little adrenaline," he says. "A lot of people aren't going to play paintball or dodgeball or soccer or lacrosse, this gives you a little bit of that element, but it's not real impact."

Players wear goggles—and are often

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A SCI-FI OR FANTASY GEEK TO DO IT, BUT IT MAY BRING AN EXTRA SMILE TO YOUR FACE.

JEFF FOLL

arrows.

Between sessions, Cathya, who sits as close to VTAG because she's a Hunger Games fan, finds and fantasy fans form an underground tribe in this state, notes Foll. "There are a lot more people than you think who are very into The Hunger Games and Lord of the Rings and Vikings and all that," he says. "And in Vermont, there have not been a lot of venues."

After 25 years in operations management, Foll is now working full time to promote not only VTAG but a Renaissance Faire he's organized—think fairs, frites, knights, jousting and jousting, along with outdoor "bow and arrow tag." It's scheduled for June 25 and 26, 2016, in Stowe.

"We're tapping into this whole community of creative people who don't mind thinking out of the box—or building their own box and doing fun things," Foll says of the crossover between the Renaissance crowd and VTAG players. "You don't have to be a sci-fi or fantasy geek to do it, but it may bring an extra smile to your face."

Rayne Berron, owner of the Shelburne

Health & Fitness facility that shares the Field House's building, has dubbed it VTAG and says it's more of a body burner than it initially seems. "You do get some good exercise," he says. "You're moving around, squatting, running—you start sweating."

DeRubeis, a 60-year-old special-needs professional from Vergennes, points out that VTAG can be tailored to individual preferences. "You can be running from bunker to bunker, drawing bow and dodging and dive rolling to retrieve ammo, and you'll get a serious whole body workout without even realizing it," he says. "But if you're not looking that ambitious, or you tweaked your ankle, you can spend more time behind cover."

VTAG does require coordination, DeRubeis adds—in ways that, say, bow hunting doesn't. While deer and turkey are moving targets, they don't shoot back, says Foll.

Though I have the misfortune of being nailed right in a neck nerve, the VTAG arrows are harmless. The sport's only real inherent danger is that of being outmaneuvered by an opponent, or perhaps an exhausted "You're never shooting any body closer than 30 feet—the impact is nothing compared to paintball," says Foll.

He's thinking about offering more themed nights, as well as dusk lights and glow sticks. Foll has also experimented with a version of VTAG in which teams are their arrows at an outdoor ball located in the neutral zone, it's called "Football."

My attempts to hit anyone or anything with an arrow fail flat. But I've intrigued enough by VTAG to plan to give it another shot this winter, especially if wacky goals and glow lights come into play. Sounds like a great way to forget about a gray winter evening.

As DeRubeis says of the game, "It's a fun combo of coordination, strategy, awareness and adrenaline." And proof that goals and jacks don't have to be mutual enemies after all. ☐

Contact: tuff@seaweedpost.com

INFO

Get more info about VTAG at 706-638-6038, vtagactiongamesvt.com or the Vermont Action Games Facebook page at facebook.com/vtagactiongames.



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He's Got Game

Vermont sports writer's latest book explores basketball and the Age of Obama

BY DAN ROLLES

Let's imagine the opening shots of the memorable footage bequeathed to the left and names of President Barack Obama. It starts with a close-up of a basketball dribbled on a blacktop court. The camera pans slowly out to reveal the hurls and flow of a playground pickup game, a blur of whirling clothes and scowls, a symphony of shouts, groans and trash talk.

The players are middle-aged black men, except one. Also black, he stands with the glowy, horn-like glow of a teenager who has yet to grow into his lanky frame. He stands at the top of the key, dribbling the ball and sharply eyeing a larger man cradled defensively in front of him.

The kid flicks to his right and then cuts left — always left — and dunks by his toes. He slips into the lane and, just as the defense collapses around him, launches toward the hoop. He floats the ball off his fingertips, just over the outstretched arm of a defender. We see the slow arc of the warm ball against a backdrop of swaying palm trees and a hazy, late-day Hawaiian sky. The ball kisses the backboard and drops neatly through the hoop.

One of the older players throws an arm around the boy and tucks in his bushy shock of black hair. "Nice shot, Barry," he says. The camera lingers on the kid's face, and we see a wide, toothy grin that will one day become the most famous smile in the world. Not opening credits.

There's nothing unique about the young Barack Obama's mid basketball playing. From the playgrounds of Lincoln's Kitchen Park to the decaying game of rural Indiana, basketball has been a pastime and rite of passage for generations of Americans, most of whom don't grow up to become the leader of the free world.

But for Obama, basketball was not merely a game. It was a devious, formative influence on young Barry: the game has remained a constant throughout his life.

According to longtime *Sports Illustrated* senior writer Alexander Wolff, the teenage Obama took from the hardwood and applied aspects of his youth love likewise removed control to his being. They've infected him both personally and politically, whether he was a basketballer on a state championship high school team in Hawaii, a community organizer playing pickup games in Chicago or the POTUS



TO KNOW HOW TO PLAY WITH PEOPLE WHO ARE BETTER THAN YOU IS, TO ME, SOMEWHAT ANALOGOUS TO WHAT HE'S DOING AS AN EXECUTIVE.

ALEXANDER WOLFF

playing on the full court he had built in his backyard at 1690 Pennsylvania Avenue.

That's the theme of *The Industry of Hoops: Basketball and the Age of Obama*, the seventh and latest book from New York Times best-selling author Wolff. The Vermont-based author uses a series of essays and photos to chronicle Obama's

life and presidency through the lens of basketball, relying on anecdotes and interviews with the president's friends, coaches, family members and political advisors.

In his field, insightful prose, Wolff constructs Obama's personal history as it relates to the game. That history starts with

Cause Célèbre

Food and drink to live by at Bistro de Margot, Burlington

BY HANNAH PALMER EGAN

On Friday, November 13, the roll-down gate was open at La Belle Equipe, a popular bistro in Paris's 11th arrondissement. The night was cold and drizzle-spelled across the threshold into sidewalk seating. A group gathered for a birthday celebration. Then two men stepped out of a car and maneuvered 19 people in a shower of chaos and terror.

We may never fully understand why ISIS militants chose La Belle Equipe and five other locations in the City of Light that night, though consensus seems to be that "Parisian hedonism" was the real target.

By that logic, it's understandable why a bistro was targeted. Though not usually fancy, small neighborhood cafes give a heartfelt *bonvenue* to all who enter, offering everyday indulgences with the off-the-ruff grace typical of casual French hospitality.

"Here, try this with the torchon," your waitress might say, placing an unsolicited glass on the table. You nibble the livered toast, then raise the glass to your lips. A honey washed sip of *barbecue* washes through the toast, sending shivers of pleasure through your body. Your glow radiates forth as an irrepressible smile.

These are the touches that distinguish a decent restaurant from an excellent one, and most good bistros offer them with effortless frequency.

When chef Pierre Mabe announced that he'd transform Barbaguier's (Memento.info) real-deal French bistro, fans mourned the loss of the longtime *marmiton* even before it closed. Some recall some when Mabe said he'd keep on the restaurant's long-serving staff. The food would be different, but with the same kitchen and front-of-house



Photo: Justin Landman

personnel, regulars could return to familiar faces.

Behind the scenes, Mabe saw that the restaurant's staffing door wasn't a fast-revolving one, and, after 30 years in the business, he knew better than to mess with a good thing. The chef has worked in restaurants with one, two and three Michelin stars across Europe and North America, making his way up the kitchen ladder under and alongside starred chefs including Jean-François Malle and Mathieu Wonne.

When Mabe landed in Vermont, he taught at the New England Culinary Institute — he was one of the last men standing when the school closed its Boston campus — before taking a post at the Hôpital Burlington in 2011. He opened the Marinated Cart there in 2014 and served straight-forward "have Amaranth" bites, mostly to hotel guests.

After cooking other people's dishes since age 18, Mabe was ready to go it alone. When he began shaping Bistro

de Margot last summer, he told this reporter that the project was "the achievement of what I've wanted to do for a long time." From now on, he said, he'd be cooking his own ideas.

The chef named the restaurant for his grandmother, he said, who lived to 100 years old. She was ever the marmite-chicken, running circles around everyone in the kitchen and dining room, seeing to every detail.

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Cause Célèbre

That's how you'll find Mahe if you visit his restaurant. Even on the busiest nights, the chef spends much of his time in the dining room, greeting parties, clearing plates and settling babies into high chairs. "How do you like everything?" he'll ask earnestly, hoping for critical feedback. "Are you enjoying that wine?"

Maybe it's the seasoned staff, or that the French-trained chef simply knows how to run a restaurant, but the 40-month-old bistro already seems like a well-oiled machine. Service is efficient and politely, most servers know the wine list well and are quick with a spot on pairing for whatever you're ordered.

But with veteran bartender Paul Gibson in charge of libations, you might as well start with a cocktail, and he knows at Margot skew classic and honey. Rye drinkers will enjoy the Manhattan-esque Vieux Carre. The Vert Martini Vesper (styled after James Bond's martini in *Casino Royale*) is as clean and clear as Vermont gin and vodka splashed with tarragon blanc. A cider mignon swaps ice cider for sugar in an autumnal take on the misty summer spouder.

Unless you plan to have your meal around wines that excite you, it's wise to delay visiting the wine list until you've decided what you'll eat. Mahe's menu means to be enjoyed with various fermentations, and Gibson has done a fine job selecting interesting French wines that match the food. What's more, waiters seem to enjoy growing noses from the list and guiding guests toward a bottle that will service several dishes.

To a froth, cherry-rich glass of Burgundy just now brightens the fatty crisp of a brose-basted cod loin. Later, the subtle brines and spices in the same wine — from sty Domaine des Margots, where owner Christophe Desautel is Mahe family friend — play nicely with salty duck magret.

Pan-seared is a perfect juicy magnet. Mahe's three-shoulder duck breast is best taken without interference from the Brussels sprouts, purple potatoes and Belgian endive that share its plate. Let the earthen, nutty meat linger on your tongue. Feel the light stung of its peppered glaze, absorb the salty awareness of its skin.

Between bites, sample the starchy firmness of the local potatoes and savor the candied shallow beans, then crutch into a Vermont cornberry tart and rose crisp, to clear your palate for another strip of duck.

While these Hudson Valley morsels are known for their simple beauty, the



duck's primary duty is to guarantee creamy, large-lobed livers. These also appear on the menu at Bistro de Margot.

For ambivalence on foie gras. If there's a compelling reason to order it, I will, but please make it worth the price and all the effort that went into producing it.

Mahe tends to present proteins ingredients unfettered by any chef's stamp of ego, and his line is a simple torchon, levers marinated in smoky-sweet wine and rolled into chervil cloth, flash-poached and chilled.

Spread out a brose-basted trout with a dab of trafficked black currant jelly, the preparation was flawless duck on a bun — so lovely and pure, it felt almost sinful to eat it.

MAHE TENDS TO PRESENT PRISTINE INGREDIENTS UNFETTERED BY ANY CHEF-Y STAMP OF EGO.

But not that what you want when you're paying a premium to eat out? At \$9 to \$15 for most starters (the five was \$19), and \$20 to \$30 for entrees, Bistro de Margot isn't cheap. Nor is it prohibitively expensive.

Lean capelin dishes were as graceful and understated as bowls of soft celery soup, scattered with fried shittake,



pan-seared chicken breast, glossy-skinned and perched atop heavily mashed potatoes in a puddle of luxurious jus.

Then there was a quarts white fillet of cod, seared to a golden-brown and resting on a bed of wild chard. The fish fell away in clean flakes, giving brine to the caramelized below, which was leached with rosemary, lemon, duck fat and thickened with a Mahe roux. This dish seemed to distill the elegant, honey-bittersweet of good bistro cooking.

Another night, Mahe's escargots revealed the party been part of: crisp from a creature that slides along wet leaves and soft, feeling its way with ancient molusk antennae. And if the accompanying pommes dauphine — crumbly morsels



Lemons, lemons, lemons!

a la tater tots — were a bit dry. I had to look no farther than those little pools of herbied butter, robbed of their snail, for moisture.

The fries in the steak bites were similarly unrescuable alone. But they made a worthy vehicle for the steak's tomato-pickled sauce. Bites. And that smoky hamper steak, charred to an enticing medium-rare (and laced with smoke, was a reminder of why butchers historically kept the cut for themselves).

After all this, dessert may seem like overkill. But Buzo de Margot's sweets are worth a look. Make doesn't employ a pastry chef but, on one night, a few bites of a friend's cognac lemon card, uncapped with honey meringue, made me rethink my usual disdain for jam desserts.

Then, scoring tangy apples layered and crisscrossed to the edge of recognition as a slice of tartar, I questioned my devotion to American apple pie.

And the creme brûlée in good. Lolo, really really good.

Then again, if after a meal of French finery you prefer the warm embrace of a glass of Calvados, or the enigmatic, low-burning bite found in a sipper of Benedictine, go for it. Goldstate life — that's what butters us for ☺

Contact: henrik@sevendigital.com

INFO

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Left: Ben Smith of the Spot

Wet Bar, Dry Cooks

Burlington's Spot bucks a food-industry trend with its "sober kitchen"

BY ETHAN DE SEIFE

Even people who have never worked in a restaurant are likely to have heard tales about the honey, druggy excesses of kitchen staffers. The one about the bus cooks who kept little of whiskey alongside the knives at their stations. The one about the chef who sniffed half an ounce of cocaine to get through his restaurant's busiest nights. The ones about the bangers, the burnouts, the ODs.

The hard-partying restaurant kitchen was food in the public mind by hotshot chef Anthony Bourdain's 2009 memoir *Kitchen Confidential*, in which he describes the typical kitchen as "borderline, chaotic, drenched in drugs and alcohol, and accompanied constantly by loud rock and roll music."

Prone though he is to self-aggrandizing "confessions," Bourdain — himself a recovering addict — does not appear to have exaggerated. A 2005 survey conducted by the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration found that, of all industries surveyed, workers in the "accommodations and food services industry" had the highest rate of past-year substance abuse: 16.9 percent.

Not every restaurant kitchen is a substance-abuse statistic, though. And the staff of one popular Burlington restaurant is particularly determined to buck the trend. The Spot at Shelburne Road has maintained a "sober kitchen" for years. The people who work there, several of whom are recovered addicts, have forged a kitchen community

headed not by a shared love of getting wasted — or, conversely, by a finger-wagging prudishness — but by a desire to lend a hand to good people who need a boost.

With its brightly painted dining room, "hang loose" surf-and-ski vibe, and mix of classic rock and beatsy reggae coming from the wall-mounted speakers, the Spot is a pretty laid-back place. The lively, unfussy menu emphasizes local meats and fresh veggies alongside the seafood that naturally takes pride of place at a restaurant with a seashore theme. Most tables are occupied for all three daily meals. The waitstaff gales proudly with the regulars.

The Spot doesn't advertise or boast about the sobriety of its kitchen. Nor does the place hire only those who

pledge never to anhrbe — to do so would be discriminatory. In that it does not welcome drags in alcohol during business hours, the Spot's kitchen is not unlike those of most other restaurants. Sobriety is neither official policy nor even an explicit recommendation; the place employs several people who drink alcohol on their own time.

Rather, the purpose of the Spot's "sober kitchen" is to create an understanding and supportive atmosphere — as well as steady jobs — for people who could use the boost. It's clear, talking with kitchen staff, that they're proud to be part of an enterprise that's unusually sympathetic to and supportive of its employees.

Frank Pace, 42, is well-known in Vermont culinary circles. Before assuming chef duties at the Spot in May — whereupon he revamped the menu — he was the butcher for restaurants of the Burlington-area Farehouse Group. Before that, Pace spent years at the meat manager at Healthy Living Market and Café; he now runs his own company, Pace Catering. He's also a recovered alcohol abuser.

Between the ages of 19 and 35, most of those years spent in the restaurant industry, Pace said he used drugs and alcohol. "By the time I was 26, I had passed the line of normal drug use to become a full-blown addict," he said. His drug of choice, whatever it was, had.

When he was starting out in the restaurant business, Pace didn't know, his colleagues' fondness for mind-altering substances was "a big plus. It's a comradery thing." But, he quickly and emphatically added, "I don't think cooking made me a drug addict. I could have been a butcher, and I probably would have been a drug addict."

After his wife kicked him out in 2008, Pace moved into one of two Burlington locations of the Oxford House, a democratically run halfway house for people committed to sobriety. From there, he proceeded to recovery retreat Plymouth House in Plymouth, N.H. Though not formally affiliated with Alcoholics Anonymous or Narcotics Anonymous, the Plymouth House uses the signature 12-step method of those organizations.

Pace helped found the Spot's commitment to sobriety well before he

took charge of its kitchen. After he'd progressed through those 12 steps and landed a string of prominent jobs in Burlington's food industry, he realized, he felt the need to "pay it forward." In 2012 Pace did so by sponsoring another graduate of the Plymouth House, he used a connection in the Spot's network to land a gig there for a young man named Curt Duford.

Like the other recovered addicts at the Spot who speak with Seven Days, Duford is disarmingly blunt about his abuse of alcohol and opiate. The low point: a felony attempted assault and robbery charge that landed him a short stint in jail, where his "recovery program" consisted of a cold cement floor and a serious case of the shakes. He considers himself fortunate that the judge overseeing his case recommended he be sent to the Plymouth House rather than to a higher-security prison.

Upon moving on from the Plymouth House, Duford landed a solid and smoothie prep gig at the Spot on the strength of Pace's recommendation. Within about 18 months, he was managing the kitchen. These days, the affable, red-headed 30-year-old works only a couple of days a week

as a line cook. Most of his time is spent in classroom: He's a full-time student at the University of Vermont, where he studies accounting.

Several other Spot employees singled out Duford as the key figure in maintaining the kitchen's sobriety. As kitchen manager, he made a point of hiring other recovering addicts. "I know some good people who were really working their [12-step] program, and I knew they had experience and that they were ready to come on and kick butt," Duford said.

"It's really cool to be able to spend most of my time around people who are striving to be better people," he added.

One of the people Duford sponsored, and then hired, was Andrew Franzsch, now 27, who started as a dishwasher and became a grill cook. Franzsch, a native of St. Albans, and he found his hometown lacking in the recovery services that he knew he needed after five years of abusing Percocet, Oxycontin and heroin. So he moved to Burlington's Oxford House, where he met Duford.

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Franchek has spent two years at the Spot, at one point during that time, he had a two-month relapse. "It had gotten pretty bad, and it was pretty noticeable in the kitchen, where everyone is an ex-junkie or alcoholic," he said. "I came out of the bathroom, where I had gotten high. I was sweating. I had scales all over my face." With Duford's encouragement, Franchek returned to the Plymouth House to clean up.

"Cart processed me. 'If you keep doing the right thing, your job will be here when you get back,'" said Franchek. "It was another motivating factor to get me back on track. I know those guys can shoot me in the back if they don't."

A more recent beneficiary of Duford's sponsorship is Hilary Crosse, 36, who grew up with him in Massachusetts. For the past five months, she's been the Spot's utility infielder, waiting on tables and helping to prep food whenever she's needed. Her wife, who's struggling with her own demons, even when she doesn't have her darkest days of heroin and alcohol abuse.

Crosse is not only a resident but a co-founder of one of the Burlington Oxford Houses — a testament to her commitment to sobriety. Despite that commitment, she relapsed several months ago, she said, after a visit to the Plymouth House, she returned to Burlington on a Wednesday afternoon. By Thursday morning, she had taken the job at the Spot that Duford allowed her

"I love these guys like family," Crosse said. "Even the people here that aren't in recovery are so super-supportive. And these guys hold me accountable, too. There's no bullshit."

All this may come as a surprise to the locals and commuters who come to flick back at the Spot — sometimes with a drink in hand. As befits its fun-and-sun reputation, the Spot cranks up a selection of beachy drinks in addition to standard cocktails like the tropical mai-tai and the caipiroska. The nights, the dark 'n' stormy and the rummy plaster's punch are joined on the menu by such creations as the Hawaiian Martini, Strawberry Malibu rum and pineapple juice.

Those libations can be a perfect accompaniment to the restaurant's scotch, vodka and red curry and coconut shrimp. Do staffers ever find that a source of potentially dangerous temptation?

Despite her struggles with substance abuse and her recent relapse, Crosse said on the often-windy behind-the-bar scene nights. "We make apple-cider mimosa here," she said. "They probably taste really good. But I don't have that option." ☺

Contact: ethan@burlingtonvt.com

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 - Places emphasis on organizational skills and prioritization of responsibilities

The candidate will be responsible for the following duties:

- Answering phone calls in a kind and courteous manner
- Assisting in administration of Vermont Soccer Association programs
- Providing assistance related to the execution of Vermont Soccer Association events and programs
- Coordination and administration of official Vermont Soccer Association forms and policies
- Other duties as assigned by the Vermont Soccer Association executive director

The candidate will be expected to work office hours of 9 a.m. -2 p.m. Monday-Friday with occasional weekend and/or evening hours expected.

Interested candidates should send cover letter and resume via email to Vermont Soccer Association executive director, Meg Murray at edirector@vermontsoccer.org.

The State of Vermont

**SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAM MANAGER
REGIONAL PREVENTION PARTNERSHIPS**

The Vermont Department of Health, Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs, is seeking a motivated individual to manage all aspects of a large federally funded substance abuse prevention initiative. This individual will be responsible for programmatic and fiscal oversight of regional grants focused on substance abuse prevention, training and evaluation contracts. Candidate should have a strong public health background, knowledge of evidence based substance abuse prevention strategies, project management skills, and the ability to work collaboratively with state, regional and community organizations.

The starting salary for this position is \$51,646 annually.

For more information contact Lori Uetz at 652-6148 or lueetz@vermont.gov. Reference job posting #618163. Burlington, full-time.

Application deadline: December 10

Visit the Vermont Department of Human Resources website to apply: <http://humanresources.vermont.gov/careers>.

The State of Vermont is an equal opportunity employer.



YOUR TRUSTED LOCAL SOURCE. SEVEN DAYS.VT.COM/JOBS

SIMON PEARCE

UI/UX DESIGNER

Simon Pearce, a leader in the design and manufacture of handblown glass and handcrafted pottery, is looking for a highly creative UI/UX Designer to help brand the visual identity of our e-commerce site for a detailed job description and to apply online, please visit us at simonpearce.com. APPLY@simonpearce.com



Delivery Driver/ Equipment Installer

Immediate opening for a Delivery Driver/ Equipment Installer. Please review job requirements and download an application and submit with resume from: kittredgeequipment.com Careers > Wilton, VT



Spring Lake Ranch
Therapeutic Community

Registered Nurse

Connersville

Spring Lake Ranch Therapeutic Community, a uniquely relational therapeutic firm, is an equal opportunity employer and empowers people with mental health and addiction challenges to grow their own and gain independence. Nursing assessments assisting psychiatrist/psychiatry/psychiatrist staff training on call support, scheduling appointments and medication administration. Vermont RN license required. Previous experience in mental health and/or substance abuse recovery and ability to collaborate closely with other the Spring Lake Ranch staff are essential. Full time with benefits 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. Resumes to hiring@springlakeranch.org



Phoenix House

Risk Reduction Curriculum Facilitator Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility

Phoenix House of New England is under contract with the VT Department of Corrections to provide instructional and curriculum delivery within the women's Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility (CRCF) in North Burlington. We are currently recruiting for a full-time Risk Reduction Curriculum Facilitator to provide group facilitation to women at CRCF using specific curricula designed to address risk-factor thinking and behaviors in order to reduce the risk of reoffending upon reentry into the community. The curricula are administered to criminal justice-involved clients throughout the state. Facilitator will be trained in the specific curricula and will facilitate multiple groups a day. Experience in curriculum delivery and/or group counseling is desired. Experience in education or human services is required.

Interested applicants are invited to complete the voluntary self-identification form and the Phoenix House Interactive Application are to be submitted to us at phoenixhouse.org. Please send your completed application and form to Rebecca O'Connor at rebecca@phoenixhouse.org

Phoenix House is an equal opportunity employer providing equality of opportunity to all who are protected against discrimination by law regardless of race or ethnicity under including persons and individuals with disabilities. If you send an additional email to apply for any position, please refer to the Reasonable Accommodation document on our website at phoenixhouse.org. EEO is the law. Applicants and employees are protected under federal law from discrimination. Click eoc.gov/employers/upload/poster-screen-reader-optimized.pdf to learn more.



Supply Chain Manager

Alpine Snow Guards and EcoFasten Solar are seeking a Supply Chain Manager to join our team. The ideal candidate will have a minimum of 5 years of experience in the solar industry, with a focus on supply chain management. The successful candidate will be responsible for managing the supply chain for the company's products, ensuring timely delivery and cost efficiency.

Full job description available upon request.

The successful candidate will have a minimum of 5 years of experience in the solar industry, with a focus on supply chain management. The successful candidate will be responsible for managing the supply chain for the company's products, ensuring timely delivery and cost efficiency.

Full job description available upon request.

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**VERMONT
YOUTH
CONSERVATION
CORPS**

PRESIDENT

The Vermont Youth Conservation Corps (VYCC) is a multi-state nonprofit service, conservation and education organization, is searching for a President. Though a meaningful group work that directly benefits communities, VYCC mobilizes the values of personal responsibility, hard work, education and respect for the environment in young people. Corps members, young adults 18-24, work, live, study and have fun together in small groups, completing priority conservation and agricultural projects under the guidance of highly trained adult leaders. This is a tremendous opportunity for a dynamic leader to strengthen, grow and lead an incredible team.

POSITION OVERVIEW

The VYCC President has overall responsibility for the organization's activities and operations, including program execution, financial management, fundraising, and strategic direction. In addition to strong organizational leadership, the President must also compellingly represent the organization externally, reaching public and private partners, philanthropic audiences, and the public at large. This position reports directly to the Board of Trustees.

The President will be based out of the VYCC Headquarters Office in Richmond. More information on the VYCC can be found at vycc.org. Please send cover letter and resume to:

elias@youthconservation.org or to

VYCC, Attention: Elias Desjardis, 128 Intervale Road, Burlington, VT 05401



Plattsburgh

Museum Preparator

For position details and application process, visit:
jobs.plattsburgh.edu and select "New Career Opportunities"

Plattsburgh is a city of opportunity and growth.

PCC

Pediatric EHR Solutions

Wor to join the booming health care IT industry and work in a fantastic team culture? Perhaps yes, time, desire the friend's, casual, low-stress and stress-free environment offered by our 24 jobs are our company located in the Champlain Valley.

PCC has designed, developed and supported our award-winning pediatric software for over 20 years. As a benefit corporation, we place high value on client, employee and community relationships. Because we recognize the child-rental solutions is doing greater demand for our services, we want to expand our team.

As a result, we are seeking to fill the roles of:

Marketing Designer

We are looking for a creative, dynamic, creative person to help us increase brand awareness in the space of pediatric care. The Marketing Designer is responsible for the conceptualization and implementation of design ideas that use PCC's marketing strategies from concept to completion. We would be a specialist focused to lead a multifaceted effort, able to sell to roll up their sleeves to contribute to our successful outcome as a team on the basis of the needs of our pediatric patients. B.A./BS in graphic design, digital media, marketing, or communications or prior hands-on experience and self-motivation required. If you are a Master Creative, you are a Design, Photography, Illustration, Experience with CRM and market communication software.

Software Solutions Specialist

Software Solutions Specialist work in our support center and are eager to learn our EHR solutions and provide a customer service for our clients. They are helping our clients build their skills and confidence with PCC software solutions.

Software Solutions Specialist must have strong customer service and change support skills, and help solve customer problems. They also must be able to work with our clients to assist with software configuration and training. This position requires technical aptitude and exceptional customer service and communication skills. Prior experience in health care technology desired, but not required.

To learn more about PCC, visit our website and apply, please visit our website at pcc.com/careers. The deadline for submitting your application is December 15.

No phone calls, please

Manager, Community Health Team

The Community Health Team Manager promotes the Integrated Care Model Vision by developing and managing Community Health Team (CHT) members in care coordination and self-management support of patients with chronic conditions, priority care, and at-risk patients. The CHT Manager will also coordinate the planning and implementation of the CHT team's care coordination activities. The CHT Manager will also coordinate the planning and implementation of the CHT team's care coordination activities. The CHT Manager will also coordinate the planning and implementation of the CHT team's care coordination activities.

Qualifications include a Master's degree in Social Work or a related field, a minimum of five years of experience in a leadership position in a community health organization, and a minimum of five years of experience in a leadership position in a community health organization. The Manager must also have a minimum of five years of experience in a leadership position in a community health organization.

Rutland Regional Medical Center is a 100-bed hospital located in Rutland, Vermont. Our services and facilities have grown over the last 20 years to provide a quality of care that is second to none. Our services and facilities have grown over the last 20 years to provide a quality of care that is second to none.

PLEASE APPLY ONLINE AT www.rtmccareers.org

or for more information, contact: New_Hilly_McCulloch@rtmccareers.org or call 802.767.1100



Rutland Regional Medical Center

An Affiliate of Rutland Regional Health Services

160 Alton Street, Rutland, VT 05701



Rutland Regional Medical Center is an equal opportunity employer.



WCMHS
Washington County Mental Health Services, Inc.

Washington County Mental Health Services is a not-for-profit community mental health center. We provide a wide variety of support and treatment opportunities for children, adolescents, families and adults living with the challenges of mental illness, emotional and behavioral issues, and developmental disabilities. These services are both office and community based through outreach. The range of services offered includes prevention and wellness, assessment and stabilization, and 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week emergency response.

Our current openings include:

- Residential and Community Support Specialist
- Full-Time and Part Time Cleaners
- Administrative Assistant
- Accounting Supervisor
- Home Intervention Counselors
- Home Intervention Team Leader
- Residential Counselors

We are proud to offer our employees a comprehensive package of benefits including generous paid sick, vacation and holiday time, medical, dental and vision insurance, short and long-term disability life insurance, an employer assistance program and a 401(k) retirement account. Most positions require a valid driver's license, a good driving record and access to a safe, insured vehicle.

To learn more about current job opportunities or read our complete job descriptions, please visit our website, wcmhs.org.

Apply through our website and send your resume to:
jobs@wcmhs.org or Personnel, P.O. Box 648, Montpelier, VT 05601.

Equal Opportunity Employer

JOIN OUR CREW

We're looking for a motivated, energetic, creative quick-thinking person who can't get enough of Lake Champlain. If you'd like to be a part of a non-profit organization that's consistently viewed as a national leader in community waterfront programming, we'd like to hear about your interest in the following position:

Full-time, year-round CAMPAIGN DIRECTOR

For more information and to submit an application, visit communitysailingcenter.org/about/jobs



CAREGIVERS NEEDED

The Residence at Shelburne Bay, a premier Level II hospitality-oriented senior living community in Shelburne, is accepting applications for Caregivers for the following positions:

- **Ovenights**
- **Evenings**
- **Days**

A Caregiver's role is vital to the quality of our residents' daily lives. You will make a difference in their lives as well as your own, including a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction in helping others.

Applicants must have good verbal and written communications skills and be nurturing, caring and reliable. Must be comfortable with computers. Previous caregiving experience preferred; however, we are willing to train applicants with strong qualifications and the willingness to learn. Candidates are also eligible to apply for a promotion to medication technician after 90 days of exemplary performance. Background checks required.

We offer competitive salaries and benefits for full-time positions including health, dental, vision, paid time off and a comfortable and peaceful working environment where our residents are nurtured and allowed to age with grace and dignity.

Send reply with your resume or stop by and pick up an application at:

The Residence at Shelburne Bay
185 Pine Haven Shores Road
Shelburne, VT 05482



Executive Director

We seek an energetic, forward thinking and creative leader! Someone to successfully manage multiple priorities, professionally represent the organization, supervise staff and volunteers, and manage daily internal and external operations including its government affairs and external relations/communications.

This position reports to the REV's board of directors and is based in Montpelier with flex-time and telecommuting opportunities available. There is a heavy workload during the Vermont legislative session (January-May) and the REV annual conference period (September-October). With ever-growing interest in renewable energy and related incentives, this is an exciting time for REV.

Bachelor's degree and at least 10 years of senior management or ED experience. A decisive individual who possesses a "big picture" perspective and is well-versed in government affairs and advocacy work. Excellent organizational, writing and public speaking skills. Must have a strong passion for creating a low-carbon, clean energy future in Vermont.

Renewable Energy Vermont (REV) is a leading nonpartisan industry association representing renewable energy technologies. Founded in 2000, REV is a trade association of 150 member businesses representing thousands of professional members and supporters. In addition to the 501(c)(3) trade association, REV also has a 501(c)(2) non-profit educational function.

Please log onto renewvt.org for more details. Send a cover letter, resume, and the contact information (including email address) for three professional references to hstrev@gmail.com. This position will remain open until filled.



Washington County Mental Health Services, Inc.

Washington County Mental Health Services is currently seeking the following clinician positions in our Center for Counseling and Psychology Services:

Community Support Clinician for Trauma Programs

A full-time office- and community-based position with benefits, designed to serve adults, children and families whose lives have been impacted by trauma. The Community Support Clinician provides assessment and treatment resource coordination to help clients develop stabilization skills and establish emotional and psychological safety in the broader context of their lives. Trauma treatment services are team-oriented and collaborative with clients and other providers; they may include individual and group modalities integrated with appropriate resources available within the agency and/or wider community. Must be willing to work some evening hours. Master's-level clinician with knowledge of the effects of trauma and experience working with populations impacted by trauma required. Experience working in home-based settings helpful.

To learn more or to read our complete job descriptions, visit our website, wcmhs.org.

Apply online or send your resume to personnel@wcmhs.org or Personnel, PO Box 647, Montpelier, VT 05601.

Equal opportunity employer



Counseling Service of Addison County, Inc.

Serving staff committed to making a difference.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Accounts Payable Specialist: Responsible for regular processing and payment of invoices, responding to inquiries from staff and vendors, processing staff mileage reimbursements, maintaining filing, and 1099 processing. Associate's degree in accounting or related field, plus one to three years' experience, or a combination of education and experience. This is a full-time, benefit-eligible position.

EMR Application, Training and Support Specialist:

Responsible for electronic medical record system support, testing and troubleshooting. Prepare documentation and provide user training and EMR help desk assistance. Assist with testing for upgrades, patches and other system enhancements. Minimum requirements: associate's degree or experience commensurate with education. This is a full-time, benefit-eligible position.

EMR/Billing Associate:

Maintain client information, submit claims, apply payments and issue and release client records. Associate's degree plus one year of relevant experience or a combination of education and experience required. Attention to detail a must. This is a full-time/benefit-eligible position.

YOUTH & FAMILY

Outreach Clinician: Join our dynamic team of clinicians and work in homes, communities and schools with children, adolescents and families with emotional and behavioral challenges and developmental disorders. We're seeking creative thinkers for this rewarding position. Master's degree in a human services field, plus two to four years of relevant counseling experience. This is a benefit-eligible position.

School-Based Clinician:

Provide in-school direct counseling, behavior and emotional support to children and adolescents in crisis, with severe emotional and behavioral disturbances. Master's degree in a human services field required, license preferred, plus two to four years of relevant counseling experience. Full-time and part-time positions available.

Student Assistance Professional: Interact with students, faculty and parents in local high school to raise awareness of substance abuse issues utilizing prevention and counseling techniques to achieve this goal. Screening and some assessment and early intervention, referrals to appropriate care. Licensed substance abuse clinician or certification as an addictions counselor or equivalent master's degree in counseling, social work or related field. This position is five days per week during the school year.

Program Representative

Come join the nation's leading agricultural energy efficiency firm, based in Richmond. EnSave, Inc. is hiring a Program Representative to help serve our agricultural customers through various energy and environmental services programs. We're looking for an organized individual with strong customer service skills, a great phone manner and an ability to juggle many tasks. See ensave.com/careers for a full job description. Send your cover letter and resume to Heather D'Arcy at heatherd@ensave.com.

EnSave
www.ensave.com

Join the team at **Gardener's Supply Company!** We work hard AND offer a fun place to work including BQs, staff parties, employee garden plots and much more! We also offer strong cultural values, competitive wages and outstanding benefits (including a tremendous discount on plants & product!).

GARDEN CENTER - ASSISTANT GREEN GOODS BUYER:

You will be responsible for maintaining a strong in-stock position of all green good product categories, ensuring accurate on hand inventory & data integrity, and managing ongoing vendor relationships for our Burlington and Wilton garden centers. Our ideal candidate will have two years buying experience in the garden center industry, inventory and systems management experience, direct customer service experience, and strong Microsoft Office and system knowledge. Advanced nursery/horticultural knowledge preferred, previous buying experience in green goods strongly preferred.

We are a 100% employee-owned company and an award winning and nationally recognized socially responsible business, voted one of Vermont's "Best Places to Work." Interested? Please send your cover letter & resume to Gardener's Supply Company, 128 Intervale Rd., Burlington, VT 05401 or to jobs@gardeners.com.

GARDENER'S
SUPPLY COMPANY
www.gardeners.com

CLINTON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
Pittsford, NY
Director of Health Care Services

Salary: \$64,452.07-136
An Administrative Nurse Manager position oversees the Division of Health Care Services and functions as a member of the department's management team. The division includes home visiting, early intervention consultation, WIC, communicable disease and a variety of programs.

For job applications:
clintoncounty@nyc.net
www.clintoncounty.org
EO/AAE: Minorities encouraged to apply.
clintoncounty@nyc.net

Submit application:
clintoncounty@nyc.net
Department: Human Resources
Brockton Branch: 01506
with supporting documentation to:
ELLEN HILLING/HR
OFFICE: 508/546-8888
CCHD
135 MARGARET STREET
PITTSFORD, NY 13601

BEVS

Looking for a job in the health care field but working with animals instead of people?

(We don't blame you!) Burlington Emergency & Veterinary Specialists (BEVS) is Vermont's only multi-species and 24-7 emergency veterinary hospital. We are a group of individuals truly dedicated to the health and comfort of our patients. We have a variety of positions available and are willing to train the right people! Competitive pay and pets here too are available for both full and part-time positions.

For more information on our hospital, visit our website at bevsvt.com. Please forward a cover letter and resume to jobs@bevsvt.com.



Vermont Public Interest Research Group

DATA MANAGER

Data guru who has a passion for advocacy campaigns. Tech-savvy professional with experience using Blackboard Raiser's Edge, Gemini Luminator and/or SQL. Attention who's a whiz at Excel and detail oriented, if not obsessive!

Vermont's largest non-profit and consumer advocacy group is looking for a tech-savvy data manager who wants to apply skills and strategic sense to manage the information that powers its public interest campaigns.

You'll be the administrator for our data systems including Raiser's Edge, Luminator Online, and a custom SQL database. You'll work with staff to get quality information in and out of these systems and manage the spec between systems. Queries, reports, data hygiene and analytics are your world.

Must have two-plus years CRM data admin experience, preferably Raiser's Edge and/or Luminator; data management experience in a campaign setting highly desired; also some aptitude to detail; knowledge of SQL basics; mastery of Excel; team player; flexibility and grace under pressure.

Competitive salary, employer-paid health and long-term disability insurance, employer-matching IRA or student loan repayment contributions, and four weeks of annual leave. Apply online only by December 6. Sending to HR@APF.

For more info, visit vpirg.org/jobs.



We are seeking an **Offices/Program Support Generalist** to provide administrative assistance for our environmental program academic activities; provide administrative support to the faculty of the environmental program, and have a liaison role with deans/officers and student support staff for Rubenstein School, College of Arts and Sciences and College of Agriculture. Position comes with an expectation that the person contributes to a positive and collegial work environment.

Minimum Qualifications

(or equivalent combination of education and experience)

- Associate's degree and minimum two years of relevant experience.
- Effective oral and written communication skills, interpersonal skills and organizational skills.
- Familiarity with word processing and spreadsheet applications.
- Familiarity with internet communication and information storage/retrieval.
- Experience with basic forms used in business communications.
- Current working knowledge of Excel and Word software applications.
- Familiarity with the UVM administrative systems (PeopleSoft, COTS, Banner, myUVM, Regagent) and internet in environmental issues.

To apply, go to: uvmjobs.com/postings/77730



Driver

Part Time

Wake Robin Vermont's premier confining care retirement community, seeks a part-time driver to provide on- and off-campus transportation services to residents. Duties include driving assisting residents into and out of vehicles, escorting residents to destination if necessary, and general maintenance/cleaning of vehicles. This position requires timely adherence to transportation schedules and safety protocol, and excellent customer service. Applicants must possess a valid Vermont driver's license (DL not required) and a valid driver record.

Interested candidates please email hr@wakeRobin.com or fax your resume with cover letter to HR 204-5146.

Wake Robin is an equal opportunity employer.

LOOKING FOR A NEW SOCIAL NETWORK?

We are a group of people doing human service supporting people with intellectual disabilities in addition, education and financial education. Are you someone who thinks innovatively, acts absolutely, and has the flexibility to do what it takes where and when it needs to be done? If so, contact

SPECIALIZED

COMMUNITY CARE

We play a vital role in the lives of children/youngsters in

SCC

PO BOX 556 E/SE
MIDDLEBURY, VT 05749

The State of Vermont

For the people... the place... the possibilities.

SENIOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

Department of Economic Development

The department seeks candidates with experience and knowledge in economic development strategic planning, financial planning, work plan development, and business and marketing plan development for businesses and organizations with an international trade background. Must be able to manage multiple projects, businesses and other business partner organization relationships. The person should be well versed in economic development principles, marketing and communications. This business support function will integrate the trade-related technical assistance available, managing promotion and execution of state participation in domestic and international trade shows, trade missions, and foreign direct investment, locating grant opportunities and effectively writing federal and other grants for funding international trade assistance programs, international trade shows and compliance training for Vermont businesses. For more information, contact Joan Goldstein at joan.goldstein@vermont.gov. Reference Job ID #618125. Location: Montpelier, VT. Full-time. Application deadline: December 12.

NURSING PROGRAM MANAGER

Office of the Secretary of State

The Office of Professional Regulation/Nursing Unit is seeking a nursing professional to coordinate, evaluate and monitor a program plan for nurses (RN, LPN, nursing and graduate) and nursing assistants employed in Vermont. You will review requests for the approval of new and conduct biennial reviews of existing nursing educational programs. Work closely with the Board of Nursing and Department of Aging and Disabilities. Highly professional, detail-oriented and detail professionals in search of making a meaningful contribution to Vermont should apply. Salary is based on experience. Qualifications: Master's degree in nursing, five years experience as a registered nurse. Preferred qualifications: two years of nursing teaching experience. For more information, contact Phyllis Mitchell at phyllis.mitchell@state.vt.us or 828-3180. Reference Job ID #618159. Location: Montpelier, VT. Full-time. Application deadline: December 23.

To apply, you must use the online job application at careers.vermont.gov. For questions related to your application, please contact the Department of Human Resources, Recruitment Services at 855-858-6703 (toll-free) or 802-253-0191 (TDD/Relay Services). The State of Vermont offers an excellent total compensation package as an EOE.





**HOWARD
CENTER**
Help is here.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Systems Engineer

The IT Systems Engineer develops, installs, deploys, tests, configures, and operates IT hardware systems used by the agency. Position is responsible for monitoring system performance, resolving technical problems and ensuring the overall operational readiness of a company's IT systems. Must have prior responsibility for hosting environment using products similar to Microsoft, VMware, EqualLogic, Barracuda Backup, etc. Knowledge of experience with VMware servers and desktop highly desirable. Job ID: 2823

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES

Are you concerned about the opioid epidemic that is ravaging our state?

Want to work in a fast-paced environment with a multidisciplinary team of enthusiastic and caring professionals?

The Clinician Clinic at Howard Center offers opportunities for employment and development across many disciplines, including immediate openings for nurses, laboratory technicians, secretary, case management, counseling and social work, admission staff and leadership. Opportunities for growth/advancement. On our career website, enter search term "Clinician Clinic."

Substitute Community Recovery Specialist

Do you want to support others through recovery from mental health crisis? Cause peer collaborative Stabilization, Treatment and Recovery Team (START)/Share our personal experience to provide free-of-charge peer contact with clients in their homes or in the community. Help them develop skills and support recovery needs: homelessness, insurance/policy contact, social resources/ability. As a job you'll work variable hours and a flexible schedule. Excellent opportunity for individual seeking meaningful work as a stepping stone to regular opportunities on the team. Job ID: 2830

Community Case Manager

Seeking compassionate, hardworking individual to provide case management and recovery focused community support to adults with mental health challenges and some co-occurring substance use challenges. This position includes supportive counseling and service coordination and requires someone who is well organized and dependable. Ideal candidate will have a BA in a related field as well as two years' experience working with this population. Supervision toward licensure available. Job ID: 2899

Clinician, ASSIST

Three positions available! ASSIST is a on-call hospital diversion program providing assistance and crisis support to clients who are experiencing a crisis. If you want to be part of a dynamic team, please apply. Bachelor's degree in any field is required, and experience is a plus! We are willing to train the right candidate on the job. Applicants must have transportation (vehicle, driver's license).

- 2 full-time positions open — one opening is for awake overnight. Job ID: 2825
- 1 part-time position open — 38 hours. Job ID: 2886

CHILD, YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

Autism Interventionist

Join Howard Center to work full-time with children ages 2-21 years with autism spectrum disorders. Provide intensive behavioral intervention services in public schools, homes and community settings. Training and ongoing supervision provided. Excellent professional development opportunity. Transportation required. Bachelor's degree and some experience with/able to deliver special needs necessary. Job ID: 1595

Clinician, School Services

Three positions available! Both are school-based mental health positions that are aligned between Howard Center and the school district served. Clinicians provide various mental health, consultation and case management services while utilizing a school social work model.

- Part-time with K-5 students in Burlington, 20 hours/week at the Burlington Academy (16 hours) and Champlain Elementary School (8 hours). Job ID: 2848
- Full-time with grades 9-12 in Milton, 40 hours/week at Milton High School. Job ID: 2899
- Full-time at Franklin Elementary School in Eden, grades 3-5. Job ID: 2883

DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

Intensive Community Support Worker, Floater, Adult and Family Floater

Provide community-based, specialized one-to-one support and opportunities to multiple clients who possess a range of intellectual disabilities. Presence, relationship building skills and boundary setting are necessary for this position. Some individuals may require assistance with personal care. At least three years of experience in intensive services, or a combination of education and experience. Candidates must have a vehicle and driver's license. Full-time position with excellent benefit. Job ID: 2862

For more information, please visit howardcentercareers.org.

Howard Center offers an excellent benefits package including health, dental, and life insurance, as well as generous paid time off for all regular positions scheduled 20-plus-hours-per-week.

Applicants needing assistance or an accommodation in completing the online application should feel free to contact:

Human Resources at 488-6950 or hrhelpdesk@howardcenter.org

Great Schedule—Full
Benefits—Strong Team

Line Cook—We're looking for a talented and creative individual to join our dynamic team. Bring your ideas and put your experience and enthusiasm to work! You'll work Sunday and Monday 6am–2pm and Thursday thru Saturday 10am–6pm, preparing nutritious and delicious meals and snacks for clients, staff and guests, assisting with inventory of food and supplies and handling other kitchen duties as assigned. Sound like a good fit? If so, apply via email to squy@mapleleaf.org.

Maple Leaf Treatment Center is one of the oldest continuously operating residential drug and alcohol abuse treatment and recovery centers in the country. We offer residential substance addiction rehabilitation and detoxification programs to men and women in a serene setting in the foothills of Mount Mansfield. MLTC is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), is licensed by the State of VT and operates as a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization. MLTC offers a competitive benefits and compensation package. DOE.

16 Maple Leaf Road, Underhill, VT 05081
802.895.2523 / (802.895.2227 / www.mapleleaf.org



HOWARD
CENTER

Developmental Services

Seeking Shared Living Providers

Seeking Shared Living Provider(s) to support a 25-year-old man who enjoys comic books, movies and activities in the community. This individual is looking for staff providers with strong boundaries, direct communication and the ability to provide ongoing supervision. Providers who can help someone to serve and healthy lifestyle are preferred. This would be an ideal opportunity for a peer age professional(s) or graduate student(s) with experience in the field of social work and/or counseling. Pay is very welcome! Compensation: \$25,500 tax-free annual stipend.

Seeking family Shared Living Provider(s) to support a 18 year-old woman, and college student, who enjoys music, drawing and playing card games. This individual is looking for a skilled and patient provider who can provide support at the business in adult and community in build independence. The right provider will have strong boundaries, clear communication and the ability to work in part of a larger team, and be able to provide ongoing care and supervision. This would be an ideal opportunity for a professional or graduate student with experience in the field of social work and/or counseling. Compensation: \$38,800 tax-free annual stipend.

All interested candidates please contact
hr@howardcenter.org or call 408-6963.



Expanding which data change the world

Looking for a position with a quality employer? At the University of Vermont, a stimulating and diverse workplace, we offer a comprehensive benefit package including tuition assistance for any degree, full-time position. This opening and others are available daily.

Medical Office Manager - Center for Health and Wellbeing - H&WB The University of Vermont's Center for Health and Wellbeing (CH&WB) is seeking a dynamic and detail-oriented professional to fill the position of Medical Office Manager. The successful applicant will provide leadership for all administrative and clinical operations functions in Student Health Services (SHS) and ensure compliance with applicable regulatory and accreditation requirements. This position involves the administrative operation of SHS and Student Health Services, including aspects of scheduling, student insurance administration, administrative support, medical records and billing. Duties include developing and implementing clinical administrative protocols and ensuring compliance of undergraduate compliance with academic and administrative requirements. The successful applicant will ensure an environment of excellence in service and quality and use various of supporting technologies and equipment.

Management qualifications include: Bachelor's degree in a related field, three year work experience in a health care setting in a supervisory capacity demonstrated leadership skills organizational management, student problem solving and staff development and training. B.S. or international studies and organizational skills. Proficiency with office software applications including electronic health records and database management.

This is a 12 month full time position. Salary is commensurate with experience and includes a full benefit package. For more information about the CH&WB please visit our website at www.uvm.edu/chwb

For further information on this position and other available openings or to apply online, please visit our website at www.uvm.edu/careers. Job Number: 2002-006-2248, telephone: 802-255-3100. Applicants must apply for the position electronically. Paper resumes are not accepted. Job opportunities are updated daily.

The University of Vermont is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer/Affirmative Action Employer. Minor women, persons with disabilities and people from diverse racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds are encouraged.



CUSTOMER SERVICE

Butternut Mountain Farm is an industry leading maple syrup producer headquartered in Montpelier. We have an opening for a Receptionist/Customer Service Representative to be the face and voice of Butternut Mountain Farm. This is a full time position and reports directly to the customer service manager. Butternut Mountain Farm

offers competitive compensation and benefits as well as a dynamic work environment. Qualified candidates should have related work experience, excellent communication skills and be proficient with basic MS-Office applications.

NATIONAL SALES

Butternut Mountain Farm is an industry leading maple syrup producer headquartered in Montpelier. We currently have an opening for a National Sales person. This position will focus on the generation of new placements of pure maple syrup with local manufacturers. Successful candidate will have an entrepreneurial mindset with strong analytic and negotiation skills. Ability to travel regularly is a must. Minimum five years' experience and an undergraduate college degree are required. Butternut Mountain Farm has a dynamic work environment and offers an excellent benefits package that includes medical, dental, disability and life insurance plus vacation and personal time.

MARKETING ASSISTANT

Butternut Mountain Farm is an industry leading maple syrup producer headquartered in Montpelier. We have currently have an opening for a Marketing Assistant. This position will provide critical support to our business development and customer service teams. Responsibilities will include coordination of special marketing projects, creation of materials, PR, oversight of digital platforms and advertising. The successful candidate will be able to generate cross-departmental enthusiasm, manage a department of one, exhibit top-notch creative and strategic skills, and have an impeccable attention to detail. An undergraduate in college degree or equivalent work experience is required. Butternut Mountain Farm has a dynamic work environment and offers an excellent benefits package that includes medical, dental, disability and life insurance plus vacation and personal time.

Please send resume to recruiting@bmf.com and indicate which job you are applying for.



OPHTHALMIC TECHNICIAN

Retina Center of Vermont is seeking a friendly, motivated Ophthalmic Technician for a full-time position in our South Burlington office.

Qualifying technicians are responsible for patient intake using computerized health records, assisting in office and operating room procedures, and performing retinal image diagnostic testing. Technicians must be able to rotate on emergency call schedules due to the nature of the specialty. Professional certification is preferred but not necessary; some experience in ophthalmology is required.

Please submit a resume to Aaron Mitton,
amitton@retinacentervermont.com

Holiday Cash

As Vermont's premier manufacturer of Standard Home and other modelled homes, we offer diversity to our customers through our online, web and retail stores. We have a variety of positions available throughout our company for days, early evenings and weekend shifts. No experience necessary. We will train you.

Customer Service Reps
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Apply online 9am to 5pm
Vermont and Vermont
112 Deer Mill Street, Rutland, VT 05707

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STAFF ACCOUNTANT

Seeking energetic self-motivated individual to join our corporate accounting and finance department to perform a wide variety of financial and administrative responsibilities.

including accounts payable, cash receipts, credit and accounts receivable, payroll management, accounts and accounts payable, and account reconciliation.

Qualifications candidates should possess either bachelor's or associate's degree in accounting and/or two to three years of progressive accounting experience. Experience in clerical/entry performance in an office is preferred.

We offer competitive salary, excellent fringe benefit program and an EEO/DFW company. Visit our website at dubois-king.com for more information about DuBois & King, Inc.

Please send resume to DuBois & King, Inc., PO Box 339,
Rutland, Vermont 05666 or fax at 778-4950

Email: apoc@dubois-king.com

6822



Saint Michael's College offers a rewarding, merit-based education in a beautiful Vermont setting. As a fully accredited college, Saint Michael's is one of the country's top-rated colleges. Saint Michael's offers an unparalleled mix of academic, spiritual, cultural, and social and recreational experiences.

LIBRARY CIRCULATION WEEKEND SUPERVISOR PART TIME

The 12-hour per week, year-round position provides weekend supervision of library circulation and the Society. The individual selected will support use of library services by students, faculty and staff. Including circulation and research. Bachelor's degree or appropriate combination of experience and education required. Must demonstrate knowledge and experience with online information systems. Library supervisory background and/or teaching experience a plus. Must have excellent oral and written communication skills, a public service orientation, and ability to work both independently and as a collegial team member. This individual will consult with other staff to develop flexible work schedules to cover weekend hours of service. Some Monday to Friday hours also required which may include occasional evenings.

Benefits include tuition waiver and paid time off accrual as outlined in the employee handbook. This hourly position is not eligible for regular college provided health benefits.

All offers of employment are contingent upon a successful completion of a background check. Please provide references and/or an application for the position and the position is filled.

For full job posting and to apply online please go to:
mcc.intelnewschange.com



Home Health Aides (LNA and PCA)

Immediate overnight shifts available

Come join one of only two 4-star and 2015 Home Care Excellence home health care agencies in Vermont.

The VNA and Hospice of the Southwest Region, including the Rutland Area VNA and Hospice, the Bennington Area VNA and Hospice and the Dorset Area VNA & Hospice is looking for home health aides to work overnights (weekdays and weekends) out of our Rutland and Bennington offices. In this position, you will be working regularly scheduled 10 p.m. - 6 a.m. shifts.

Ask us about our per diem benefit package.

For information or to apply contact
Harry Snyder at 770-1510, hhsnyder@vna-hs.org

EO/DFW is an equal opportunity employer (M/F).



Residential Group Home

Residential Group Home is seeking a full-time team player to work with eight teenage girls Sunday-Thursday 3 p.m.-11 p.m. Starting salary \$14 per hour with full health and dental benefits as well as paid time off. Must be confident and fun and enjoy a wide variety of activities as this is an activities-based position. Training provided if interested. Please send cover letter and resume to suzanneunth1253@gmail.com or call 871 Elm Rd Montpelier, VT 05602.



Funeral Consumers Alliance is a small nonprofit with a big job: to protect the rights of grieving people whose families have a choice. We're looking for a full-time manager to keep our South Burlington office running smoothly.

Offers will include:

- Developing and bill paying
- Customer and volunteer support by phone and email
- Processing mail orders for books and other materials

Salary for this full-time position begins at \$38,000 per year, and compensation includes health care benefits and retirement contributions.

Applicants must have proficiency in light bookkeeping and related office software, as well as a personality oriented to customer service. A bachelor's degree is preferred, but candidates with commensurate job experience should also apply.

Send your resume and references to fca@funerals.org



**PERSONAL
FITNESS INTERIORS**

Immediate opening for a

**Full-Time Fitness
Equipment Service
Manager/Installer**

at Personal Fitness Interiors. You must be able to lift heavy equipment and have mechanical experience. Good opportunities, good with people, and strict attention to detail, are important qualities. Valid Vermont drivers license and clean driving record required. Please describe: would include some Saturdays. Apply within: Personal Fitness Interiors, 4050 Williston Road, South Burlington, VT or email astacy@pfi-sb.com



Back to school, looking for a change?

Wait Staff

Full- and Part-Time Openings

Wake Robin, Vermont's premier continuing care retirement community, is adding members to our team of Dining Room Wait Staff. Wait Staff help to create a fine dining experience for our residents in a restaurant-style environment that rivals most area restaurants. This is a perfect opportunity for students with the time and drive to begin their working experience, or for professionals who wish supplement their current career endeavors.

Experience as a server is preferred but not required. We will train applicants who demonstrate strong customer service skills and a desire to work with an active population of seniors.

The Wake Robin dining room does not serve alcohol and is the perfect environment for aspiring food servers who are not yet 18.

Wake Robin offers a flexible schedule to match your goals. If interested, please email hr@wake-robin.com or fax your resume with cover letter to **888-354-5546**.



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**DIRECTOR
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LENDING**

The Vermont Community Loan Fund, a nonprofit financial institution, seeks a lending professional to help us provide economic opportunities to low and moderate income Vermonters. This full time position is a key member of senior management, and is involved in both strategic and tactical decision making. Primary job responsibilities include analyzing and understanding various commercial business loans, managing our business loan portfolio, and providing technical assistance to borrowers.

Final job description at vclf.org. Send cover letter, resume and salary requirements to hr@vclf.org. VCLF is an equal opportunity employer.

Home Care Job Fair



FRANKLIN COUNTY
Home Health Agency, Inc.

5 Home Health Circle
St Albans, VT 05478
Equal Opportunity Employer

**Tuesday, December 15
12:00 to 6:00 p.m.**

Discover the home health care difference.

On the spot interviews. We're Hiring

**Hospice Nurse Manager
Adult & Pedi OTs
Physical Therapists
Registered Nurses
LNAs
Care Attendants**

www.fchha.org | (802) 527-7531

Start the new year in a new career!



*Are you ready to
make a difference?*

EXCITING CAREER OPPORTUNITY!

Easter Seals has a full time position for a:

**FAMILY ENGAGEMENT
SPECIALIST
Middlebury, VT**

This position requires close work with Social Services to provide a range of family centered practices. As a Family Engagement Specialist you will write and implement plans of care, write court orders, monthly reports and discharge summaries and facilitate Family Group Conferences, Family Tree Coaching, and Family Safety Planning meetings for children and families dealing with issues around substance abuse, mental health, and poverty.

The successful candidate will have a Bachelor's degree in Human Services or related field, strong scheduling, communication, coaching and writing skills and the ability to work closely with co-workers, social workers, parents and community providers five (5) years of experience is preferred.

To submit a resume and complete an online application please go to **Careers at Easter Seals** page on our website and select "Family Engagement Specialist" in Middlebury, VT.

www.eastersealsvt.org

02/09/16

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- CASH BAR
- DESSERT BAR
- PARTY FAVORS
- AREA'S LEADING TOP DJ
- COMPLIMENTARY CHAMPAGNE TOAST

**THU. DEC. 31ST
8:00 PM— 1:00 AM
IN THE ATRIUM**

TICKETS

Guest of The Essex: presale \$15 / at door \$20
Public: presale \$35 / at door \$40

*Tickets are available for purchase on
eventbrite.com or please feel free to call a
Front Desk Agent to purchase your tickets
today 802.878.1100

70 Essex Way | Essex Jct, VT | EssexResortSpa.com | 802.764.1440

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calendar

DECEMBER 09 16, 2011

WED.9

activism

BUILDING EMPLOYER & HUSBANDS RACIAL OPPRESSION A WORKSHOP IN THREE PARTS
Rising tensions have a long history of us with it. Building and understanding racism. Peace & Justice Center. Building from 8-10:30 p.m. \$30-\$60. Invite people age 25 and under. presentation limited space. Info: 553-3365 and 6.

business

INTERNATIONAL ROUTINE. Goods from India, Nepal and Ethiopia. Meet for an evening. Holiday 7. The Museum of Art, 1000 North Main St. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Free. Info: 861-753-0005.

community

HEART GROUP. A supportive environment, emotional support, and inspiration in care or chronic activities. Mountain State Senior Center. 121 N. 30th St. 10:30 a.m. Free. Info: 333-4566.

PUBLIC FORUM. Local news from up, news and the community. Mountain State Senior Center. 121 N. 30th St. 10:30 a.m. Free. Info: 333-4566.

BACKLASH ENTERPRISE PROJECT PUBLIC MEETING. News, insights and information. Transportation Network. 1000 North Main St. 10:30 a.m. Free. Info: 861-753-0005.

crafts

KNITTING & NEEDLECROCK. Crochet, sweater, scarf, hat, and more. Mountain State Senior Center. 121 N. 30th St. 10:30 a.m. Free. Info: 333-4566.

dance

ARABIAN DANCE. Dancers ages 15 and up. Learn the basics. Mountain State Senior Center. 121 N. 30th St. 10:30 a.m. Free. Info: 333-4566.

DROP-IN HIP-POP DANCE. Beginner and advanced. Mountain State Senior Center. 121 N. 30th St. 10:30 a.m. Free. Info: 333-4566.

TAKING FLIGHT. Dancers, dancers, dancers. Mountain State Senior Center. 121 N. 30th St. 10:30 a.m. Free. Info: 333-4566.

education

COMMUNITY MEET & MEET WITH PRESIDENT COLEMAN. To meet an official. Mountain State Senior Center. 121 N. 30th St. 10:30 a.m. Free. Info: 333-4566.

film

AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE GIFT OF LIFE BLOOD DRIVE. Mountain State Senior Center. 121 N. 30th St. 10:30 a.m. Free. Info: 333-4566.

TECHNICAL HELP WITH LATE. Free. Mountain State Senior Center. 121 N. 30th St. 10:30 a.m. Free. Info: 333-4566.

TWISTED DANCE DANCE. Mountain State Senior Center. 121 N. 30th St. 10:30 a.m. Free. Info: 333-4566.

film

LIVING IN THE AGE OF AIRPLANE. Mountain State Senior Center. 121 N. 30th St. 10:30 a.m. Free. Info: 333-4566.

fitness

ADULT DANCERS & DANCING NIGHT. Mountain State Senior Center. 121 N. 30th St. 10:30 a.m. Free. Info: 333-4566.

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DEC. 11-13 | HOLIDAYS

Holly Jolly Holiday

Even Ebenezer Scrooge would be surprised to embrace the holiday spirit during Woodstock's Wussail Weekend, a three-day celebration of the season. The revelry starts with a bang when the Lata-pou tou La Vu de Tres (pictured at left) take center stage at Woodstock Town Hall Theatre. On Saturday, merry makers tour the town's historic homes, where they encounter encyclopedic doses of music, performances and plenty of old New England charm. Concluding the festivities is a rousing choral rendition of Handel's Messiah in the picturesque Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church. When top year rounder — million members are encouraged to lift their voices in the spirit of good cheer. Huzzah, be gone!

WOODSTOCK WUSSAIL WEEKEND

Friday, December 9
Saturday, December 10
Sunday, December 11
at various Woodstock locations. Info: 431-3333
woodstockinfo.com



List your upcoming event here for free!

OUR MISSION OUTLINE

ALL SUBMISSIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2011, FOR CONSIDERATION IN THE 2011 WUSSAIL WEEKEND. SPECIAL ADVERTISING RATES ARE AVAILABLE FOR ADVERTISING. SUBMITTING EVENTS TAKING PLACE BETWEEN DECEMBER 12 AND JANUARY 2 MUST BE RECEIVED BY THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, AT NOON.

THE OUR CONVENTION ROOM AND SCHEDULE AT WOODSTOCK CONVENTION CENTER, 1000 NORTH MAIN ST., WOODSTOCK, VT 05591. PLEASE INCLUDE THE NAME OF EVENT, A BRIEF DESCRIPTION, SPECIFIC LOCATION, DATE, TIME, COST AND CONTACT PHONE NUMBER.

CALENDAR EVENTS IN SEVEN DAYS

LISTINGS AND UPDATES ARE PROVIDED BY THE WOODSTOCK CONVENTION CENTER. SEVEN DAYS OF EVENTS AND LISTINGS ARE PROVIDED BY THE WOODSTOCK CONVENTION CENTER. SEVEN DAYS OF EVENTS AND LISTINGS ARE PROVIDED BY THE WOODSTOCK CONVENTION CENTER.

INFO & MORE

DEC.12 | MUSIC

Rustic Roots

Born and raised in rural Maine, David Mallett needed to look no farther than his own front yard for inspiration for his folk songs. "Having grown up around country people and farmers, rural life has always been a wellspring for a lot of my best work," Mallett says on his website. Since 1979, the singer-songwriter has mined his roots for material, filling more than a dozen albums, scoring a spot in the Americana canon with his perennially popular "Tangle Song." The Pine Tree State troubadour slips and strums his most popular standards alongside selections from his latest release, 2009's *The Where I Bode It On*, to support the Greenboro Arts Alliance & Broadway.

DAVID MALLET

Saturday, December 12, 7:30 p.m., at Greenbough United Church of Christ, 515 N. 10th, 503-764-1141, broadway.org



DEC.12 | MUSIC

Highly Orchestrated

On the Glenn Miller Orchestra's website, the legendary bandleader is credited with choosing "A band ought to have a sound all its own. It ought to have a personality."

Adhering to his own advice, Miller instilled his spontaneous sensibility with personality to greater, better effect. Inception in 1935, the swing group shot to popularity, getting fans on their feet with big-band hits such as "Tuxedo Junction" and "Chattanooga Choo Choo."

While the bandleader died in an apparent plane crash in 1937, his musical legacy lives on. Directed by the dapper Nick Gishler (pictured), the orchestra's current 12-member incarnation sprang up MILLER's best-known songs alongside new music arranged in the composer's latest style. *—JENNIFER*

GLENN MILLER ORCHESTRA

Saturday, December 12, 7:30 p.m., at Colorado Music Hall in Boulder, 515 E. 10th, 303-444-4144, coloradomusic.org

DEC.12 & 13 | HOLIDAY

Beary Merry Christmas

Families are transported to the Handred Acres Wood for a Christmas Eve adventure in the Santa & Pooh Production Company's spiritual staging of *A Winnie-the-Pooh Christmas Tale*. A.A. Milne's beloved critters — Pooh, Piglet, Rabbit and Tigger — come together to help the gloomy donkey Eeyore find his missing tail, along with a smattering of holiday cheer. A combination cast of live actors and adorable puppets designed by Catherine Aston melts hearts as it delivers this musical message of friendship and joy. Keep an eye out for Weatherv's 12-year-old son Beatty in his Santa & Pooh debut as the imaginative and adventurous Christopher Robin.



A WINNIE-THE-POOH CHRISTMAS TALE

Saturday, December 12, 10 a.m., 2 and 6 p.m., and Sunday, December 13, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., at Off Center for the Greenboro Arts in Huntington, 810 W. 10th, 803-5680, offcenter.org

KNOW SOMEONE WHO **LOOOOOOOVES** THIS NEWSPAPER?

Get them the perfect gift this holiday season at the...

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GIFTS
ONLINE!

50¢
—TO—
\$25



WEDNESDAY

FINNISH BOAT CAMP Finland's largest angling, fishing, sailing and canoe/kayaking clinics with instruction, equipment, food and lodging. **Waldburg Municipal** 730 N. 1st St. 10-11:30. Info: 433-7800

WISDOM MEDITATION Attend a workshop on the practice of Buddhist meditation and pranayama. **Washington Center for Health and Wellness Center** 4400 15th St. 7-9 p.m. Free. Info: 433-6824

WINDSURFING 101 For beginners. Students don't only learn the required rigging, equipment, but also receive instruction on safety protocols. **Rocky Point Library** 2000 1st St. 6-7:30 p.m. \$20. Info: 433-6556

WINDSURFING ADVANCED WindSurf ADVANCED. Cover your head, arms, legs and torso with a windsurfing sail. Learn to sail and maneuver. **Marina Center** 3400 1st St. 6-7:30 p.m. Donations: Info: 633-4100

WINDSURFING CLASSES Sign up for a windsurfing class to learn the joy and freedom of sailing. **Marina Center** 3400 1st St. 6-7:30 p.m. Info: 633-4100

WINDSURFING 101 Start your day with a growing windsurfing class for all levels. **The Marina Center** 3400 1st St. 6-7:30 p.m. Info: 633-4100

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THURSDAY

ADULT BOOKING Adult Bookings. Sign up for a book club. **Marina Center** 3400 1st St. 6-7:30 p.m. Info: 633-4100

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FRIDAY

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THE O ANTIPOHNS OF ADVENT

Advent begins and ends with music, readings of scripture and reflection, and prayer. St. Paul's Catholic Church will present both in a family-friendly, musical setting at 6:30 p.m. **St. Paul's Catholic Church** 1000 1st St. 6-7:30 p.m. Info: 633-4100

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SUN. DEC. 13 AT 9PM
St. Paul's Catholic Church
1000 1st St., Burlington
634-0111 or www.stpaulscatholic.org

ANTHONY PHOENIX BOOKS

ANTHONY PHOENIX The New York Times best-selling author of the first Phoenix book, *The Phoenix*, is back with a new book, *The Phoenix*. **ANTHONY PHOENIX BOOKS** 1000 1st St. 6-7:30 p.m. Info: 633-4100

ENVIRONMENTAL & HEALTH SCIENCE SPARKER SERIES University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign's *The Phoenix* series is back with a new book, *The Phoenix*. **ANTHONY PHOENIX BOOKS** 1000 1st St. 6-7:30 p.m. Info: 633-4100

AT WASHINGTON

AT WASHINGTON 1000 1st St. 6-7:30 p.m. Info: 633-4100

AT ESSEX

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Entertainment

MANAGIRI CHAI (Sundays) Live music series at 10 a.m. on the porch of the historic Vermont House and Inn, 100 N. Main St., Burlington. Free. Info: 802-255-1001.

Arts

THE ECHO (Sundays) A musical play at 10 a.m. in a performance space at the Vermont House and Inn, 100 N. Main St., Burlington. Free. Info: 802-255-1001.

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Keep Your Holiday Spirit out of the Landfill!



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BARRE ANTIQUES CENTER
155 N. MAIN STREET
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OPEN DAILY 10AM-6PM

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VBT 10th Anniversary Performance

The Nutcracker

December 10, 2015, 8:00 p.m. / 7 p.m.
December 13, 2015, 8:00 p.m. / 7 p.m.

Flynn Center for The Performing Arts • Burlington

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BILLY MAGUIRE An accomplished Public Radio
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regional and national weekly radio shows on public radio
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DAVID MALLAT "Rockstar" fans flock to hear a
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ELIAN HILLER-GONZALEZ The 18 member
ensemble performed classical music such as: "Chorale"
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DRUM MOUNTAIN SOUTH-THEATRE HALL
Ensemble performed classical music such as: "Chorale"
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Keep Your Holiday Spirit out of the Landfill!

The best thing to do with things
Give an experience

The recycle
wrappings

"Gift" gifts
to friends
in reusable
bags

Choose a real tree
that won't
end up in the
landfill

Art, clothing, appliances,
clothing, toys, and more
in reusable bags
in reusable bags

PAPA FRANK'S
"Authentic Italian Food"
12 Year Old Italian Restaurant
Man, Team, 11 Years Old
Man, Team, 11 Years Old
Man, Team, 11 Years Old

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The study involves:

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calendar

WORLD NEWS

food & drink

SELF-SUGAR TONGUE See 507-10

health & fitness

KNOCKING TONGUE Some patients might not want to eat on the path to recovery. The Wellness Gateway Burlington 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Sat. Info: 485-9540

WHEEL LUNGLING TONGUE Students learn healthy choices to meet their individual needs during a semester of their performances. The Wellness Gateway Burlington 6:30 to 8 p.m. Sat. Info: 485-9540

HOUSING FLOW TONGUE

SEA WITH SEA Growing from meditation, dance and healing arts. Sunday Sunset meditations postcard. The Wellness Gateway Burlington 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Sat. Info: 485-9540

WOMEN'S WELLNESS SERIES: TONGUE FOR HEALTHY Women's wellness series for women prepared by a 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Sat. Info: 485-9540

holidays

CAROLING CONCEPT The Women's Center and the Vermont Community Center 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Sat. Info: 485-9540

A CHRISTMAS CAROL: THE MUSICAL See 145-10

CHRISTMAS CAROL: THE MUSICAL

CHRISTMAS CONCERTS The Women's Center and the Vermont Community Center 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Sat. Info: 485-9540

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CHRISTMAS CAROL: THE MUSICAL See 145-10

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Second Mountain/Groton Burlington 7 p.m. \$10
www.pgm.org Info: slawson@slawson.com

outdoors

MOUNT HUNTER VALLEY HALF-MARATHON: Adventure seekers, a difficult level, mile-long trail. Contact organizers for details. Info: www.mhvalley.com Info: 802-854-2721

events

WOMEN'S PICKUP SOCCER: Kick, twist and scores of women's soccer teams in a social, active context. Registration and information for the event. See page 10 and sign. Mount Haver Community Recreation Center, Burlington 6 p.m. \$8. Info: www.mhvalley.com

theater

IN THE WOODS: See 10/12, 11 p.m.

WARY PUPPETS: See 10/12, 7 p.m.

THE METROPOLITAN OPERA NO LIVE: See 10/12.

WINTER TALK: See 10/12, 2 p.m. & 8 p.m.

STARSHIP: See 10/12, 8 p.m.

events

MEAN PRIZE: See 10/12, 10 p.m. Info: 802-854-2721

10 p.m. Info: 802-854-2721

MON. 14

arts

OPEN STUDIO: See 10/14, 10 a.m.

community

BONE GARDEN: BONE GARDEN SESSIONS: Local artists and students are invited to create a community garden in the heart of the city. Info: www.bonegarden.org

events

MEAN PRIZE: See 10/14, 10 p.m. Info: 802-854-2721

dance

SALSA MOVIE: Dance lovers, the techniques and stories of salsa, a social, active context. Info: www.salsa.com

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING: Sign up and dance for all ability levels. Info: www.scottishcountrydancing.com

events

AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE DAY OF LIFE: See 10/14, 10 a.m. Info: 802-854-2721

film

THE LIFE OF MARY ANN: See 10/14, 10 p.m.

food & drink

MAMA MARIQUITA: Creative, healthy, delicious food. Info: www.mamamariquita.com

events

WINTER TALK: See 10/14, 2 p.m.

WINTER TALK: See 10/14, 8 p.m.

health & fitness

WINTER TALK: See 10/14, 10 p.m.

WINTER TALK: See 10/14, 10 p.m.

WINTER TALK: See 10/14, 10 p.m.

community

WINTER TALK: See 10/14, 10 p.m.

events

WINTER TALK: See 10/14, 10 p.m.

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WINTER TALK: See 10/14, 10 p.m.



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WED.16

art&science

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See WED 5

business

**REALTY MARKETING
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estate, advertising
and communications
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nonprofit organiza
tions. Room 212, 42nd
Building, Champlain
College, Burlington. 7-9
a.m. Free. Info: 854-4002

community

CURRENT EVENTS CONVERSATION
An informal open discussion on current
events by subjects. Meeting at the Municipal
Library. 10 a.m. Free. Info: 854-4002

dance

AFRICAN DANCE PARTY See WED 5
GROUP DANCE/POPCORNER See WED 5

etc.

RECOMMENDED Speedboat tour and food served
the food to eat and activities with water and
presidents. 10:00 a.m. Champlain College
Library. 10 a.m. Free. Info: 854-4002

TECH-HELP WITH CLIP See WED 5

TECHNICAL BUILDING See WED 5

film

LYONS IN THE AGE OF IMPERIALISM See WED 5
THEY'RE TALKING FOUR SQUARES Champlain Valley
Library. Meeting the top of all diversity. Champlain Valley
Library. 10 a.m. Free. Info: 854-4002

food & drink

FRUITFUL CONFECTION Confectionery and food
and drink. Confectionery and food. Champlain Valley
Library. 10 a.m. Free. Info: 854-4002

golf

WEDGE CLASH See WED 5

health & fitness

RUNNING RASGS CONVENTION See WED 5

WINTER BOOT CAMP See WED 5

WINTER BOOT CAMP See WED 5

WINTER BOOT CAMP See WED 5

WINTER BOOT CAMP See WED 5

WINTER BOOT CAMP See WED 5

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File Under “?”

Four more local albums you (probably) haven't heard

BY GAN ROLLES

So many records, so little time. Seven Days gets more album submissions than we know what to do with. And, given the ease of record making these days, it's difficult to keep up. Still, we try to get to every local release that comes across the musical rail, no matter how obscure or far out.

To that end, here are four albums that likely flew under the radar of your average local music fan. In some cases, they represent the outermost boundaries of local music. Others simply slipped through the cracks. Each is worth a listen. ☺

P Money, *Home Green*

(SELF-RELEASED CD [DIGITAL DOWNLOAD])

Hip-hop is well established in Vermont and has been for a long time now. But whether our counterparts on the other side of the lake? Is there a hip-hop scene in upstate New York? As it turns out, there is. Or at least the fertile seedlings of one.

Home Green by rapper P Money is the first full-length single-artists release from the Plattsburgh Home Team, a collective of rappers, DJs and producers that would be somewhat analogous to Vermont's VT Union. It follows a 34-song 2015 sampler and a single release in October. Despite some inconsistencies, the album suggests there just might be some compelling rap flowing out of the Adirondacks.

P Money is young and white, facts that he spares no opportunity to tell as all about — not to be shy about telling us how good he is at rapping. Cuts such as “I’m Ready,” “One of a Kind” and “Stacy’s Girl” are centered on the kind of chop-convoy shoulder banger/dance that’s been doing for decades. But when he digs deeper, as on “Cold Shoulder” and “Ten Backs (Ten Bars),” he proves he’s got insight to match his fluid flow and razor-sharp production.

Instagram: [brookcamp.com](#)

Durg, *One Chance*

(SELF-RELEASED CD [DIGITAL DOWNLOAD])

Durg is the stage name of Wilder songwriter Christian Durgin. On his debut full-length, *One Chance*, he’s hoping to carve out a niche in Vermont’s ever-widening twangy rock scene. Durg does leave a mark, though perhaps not quite for the reasons he intended.

Simply put, *One Chance* is a tough listen. Durg’s guitar tones bear some resemblance to that of Crash Test Dummies’ front man Brad Roberts. That’s not necessarily a strike against him — CTD sold hundreds of records, so clearly there’s an audience. But he combines that bottom-heavy tone with stilled phrasing and, most damning of all, predictable songwriting wrapped in generic and equally predictable pop-rock arrangements.

That said, *Durg* does show promise in certain moments, most often when he veers from adhering to conventional songwriting tropes. “To Calico,” for

example, is equal parts torch song and breakup pop, treating the metaphor of love as a growing tree by chopping it down and setting it aflame.

[durgmusic.com](#)

Susie Smolen, *Made in America: Voices of Labor in Story & Song*

(SELF-RELEASED CD)

As Sen. Bernie Sanders rattles capitalist cages in his bid for the White House, his friend of a few called “democratic socialist” has seen increased attention and bows characterized by some as a sort of new radical school of thought. The truth is, Sanders’ populist, pro-union platform has been around for decades. For proof, one need only dig as deep as the *American Songbook*.

On her latest record, *Made in America: Voices of Labor in Story & Song*, local folk singer Susie Smolen recounts some of that musical history. Recorded live, the record is a mix of folk tunes both dense and less so by the middle-running likes of Woody Guthrie, Joe Hill and Arant McKinnon. In some cases, Smolen sings lyrics to suit a more modern and inclusive climate — folk music is nothing if not a living, evolving tradition. But by and large the plays tunes such as Paul McKinnon’s “Union Bustin’,” Guthrie’s “Union Man” and Jackson’s “I Am a Union Woman” fairly straight. Given a bar strong, daily voice, there’s not a bad thing at all.

What’s more interesting are the contextual stories and anecdotes she uses to frame each tune. These range from the mythology of shared melodies to the superstitions of coal miners. In short, the record is both entertaining and educational. And given the subject matter, it’s not a bad soundtrack to the presidential run of a certain well-haired senator from Vermont.

[susiesmolen.com](#)

Urian Hackney, *The Box*

(CD [OUTLET DIGITAL DOWNLOAD] 7 FROM VINYL)

If there’s one thing Urian Hackney knows, it’s beats. He most often deploys that talent as the frenetic drummer of Burlington’s ever-ascending punk band,

Rough Trade, now judging by *The Box*, a recently released 7-inch on local environmental hip-hop label Cold Busted, dude has a command of beats — and music history — even the most rabid fans of that band might not have been given.

The 45 features two songs, “Caracal” and “Bad Cycles,” that look back to the heyday of 1970s psychedelic funk. Listeners of a certain vintage might draw immediate comparisons to the G-funk production of Dr. Dre’s 1992 record *The Chronic*. And, especially given the hints of modulated synthesizers, they wouldn’t be wrong. But Hackney’s explorations run deeper than simply regurgitating Dre.

“Caracal,” the A-side, plays like a lost piece of the *Superfly* soundtrack, with its strutting libelous and treacherous with guitars. “Bad Cycles” boasts a punky soul more in line with music Hackney is typically associated with. But it’s no less radicalized, with its propulsive drums and lush, atmospheric guitar lines. This record might be the most surprising and rewarding nugget in local music this year.

[coldbusted.org](#)



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WED.9

Burlington

THE ONLY PLANET: Dark Youness (Jazz) 8 p.m. free

THE ORCH PLANET: Jack Dufford (Jazz) 8 p.m. free

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CHURCH & PARK: Coda Drapier (Jazz) 8 p.m. free

THE ORCH PLANET: Jack Dufford (Jazz) 8 p.m. free

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Beverage or
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Warehouse.



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barre/montpelier

BARRE/MONTPELIER: Jack Dufford (Jazz) 8 p.m. free

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THU.10

Burlington

THE ORCH PLANET: Jack Dufford (Jazz) 8 p.m. free

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THU 12-12/09

FRI. 11

burlington

BLUE NORTH-EAST LAFORD
Boris Covert (pub) 7:30 p.m. free

DISMANTLING The High
Brooks (pub) 10 p.m. free

HILFUNGUNG SPEAKING
First Nighters (American) 7
p.m. free. 2K Shop presents
Sweet Tooth (pub) 10 p.m.,
free

JUNKIE Francesco Blanchard
(pub) 9 p.m. free

LIGHT LAB LAMP Ed
Myer (pub) 7 p.m. free. Take
away \$5. 11 p.m. free

MEET'S 2nd Thursday (pub
weekend) 10 p.m. free
Exhibition, New England
(pub) 10 p.m. 10 p.m. 10 p.m.
Night with Blue Phoenix 10
p.m. \$5

THE BLUE NORTH-EAST PUB
The Red Heads (pub) 9 p.m.,
free

BARBIE BEAR Friday Morning
Song Along with Linda Bessie
& Friends (pub) 10 p.m., 11 p.m.
free. Art Newell & Bob Carroll
(pub) 7 p.m. free. 10 p.m.

Barbie's Use (pub) 10 p.m.
10 p.m. 10 p.m. free. Live Show
(pub) 10 p.m. 10 p.m. 10 p.m.

Chrisman 10 p.m. 10 p.m.
Chrisman (pub) 10 p.m. 10 p.m.

RED SOULS Saturday
Rays (pub) 10 p.m. 10 p.m.
10 p.m. 10 p.m. 10 p.m.

RED SOULS Sunday
Rays (pub) 10 p.m. 10 p.m.
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RED SOULS Monday
Rays (pub) 10 p.m. 10 p.m.
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RED SOULS Tuesday
Rays (pub) 10 p.m. 10 p.m.
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RED SOULS Wednesday
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RED SOULS Monday
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burmontpelier

BAGGINS 10 p.m. 10 p.m.
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CHARLIE 10 p.m. 10 p.m.
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Broke as a Joke BOKE YANKOVIC is best known as the host of the MTV pop-game show "Broke As Game Show," in which he games unsuspecting contestants on the streets of New York — after which, most often, hilarity ensues. But he's also one of standup comedy's most rapidly rising stars. With a strong voice and unique perspective, his riffs on race and culture are as sharp as they are hilarious. As a result, he's proved some of the most prestigious stages in the land, including the Just for Laughs Festival in Montreal, Ed Sullivan's Who's Got Comedy competition and Philadelphia's Pennant Person. He'll be at the Vermont Comedy Club in Burlington for two shows each night this Friday and Saturday, December 11 and 12.

JUNKIE 10 p.m. 10 p.m.
10 p.m. 10 p.m. 10 p.m.

NEIGHBOR 10 p.m. 10 p.m.
10 p.m. 10 p.m. 10 p.m.

NEIGHBOR 10 p.m. 10 p.m.
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NEIGHBOR 10 p.m. 10 p.m.
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REVIEW *this*

Little Bruce Junior, It's a Summer Baby

(JULY RELEASED | CASSETTE | CD | DIGITAL DOWNLOAD)



It's better to describe an album by how it sounds or by how it feels? To me, those two are interchangeable, and not in some syncretistic way pulled from an Oliver Sacks case study. Rather, in a way that seems universal: *It's a Summer Baby* hup hup sound like summer to me. It's a Summer Baby by central Vermont's Little

Bruce Junior — aka Bruce Hyde — sounds like a full reluctantly giving in to winter. It sounds like love, then, without electricity and coping with its seasonal affective disorder. It sounds perfect for a Vermont December.

It's not that Little's slight illness is depressing. But it's the apologetic, either. It's not supposed to be, hence the title. It seems to exist in the limbo period after a breakup, a quiescence from the mental heartache but still getting on with your life. That time when you say "I'll never get over them. But to hell with them. But maybe I can get them back. But I'll be fine without them. Right? Right?"

A number of songs on this album are full of cynicism with never-sink electric guitars as the background, which lend a sense of comfort to the otherwise melancholy lyrics. The album contains songs like "Country Paddy," an old-country number that could have been written for an early Dierks Bentley record and is driven by an early electric guitar, belatedly nearly with the dirty twang of a fiddle. It sounds a bit misleading to start, like everything is going to be OK. But that feeling is countered cleverly against lyrics such as "There's something I've never / You

love / me someone" and the admission "everything I do is wrong."

Like in only about eight songs such as "Wine Leaves Home" and "Little Things," which could pass as soundtracks for the more modest rights, pouring in with a little of whiskey and some heartache or longing.

If Little didn't already have any attention by song seven, his cover of "Poor Song" by the Yeah Yeah Yeahs would've solidified my appreciation.

Closer "Get Out" guarantees the album's theme, delivering an odd confidence in confusion. Here, Little continually pleads, "Tell me you want it this way" to a person he knows is just as unsure of how it will all end "maybe with him, maybe with me."

It's a Summer Baby will remain as my vacation through the season, and I'm certain it will inspire anyone I find myself in a state of romantic limbo. It will work equally well for a foggy 8 a.m. spring morning or a dreamy summer midnight.

It's a Summer Baby by Little Bruce Junior is available at littlebrucejunior.bandcamp.com.

JEREMIAH JOHNSON

Hot Box Honey, Flight of the Raven

(JULY RELEASED | CD | DIGITAL DOWNLOAD)

If there's one thing the local music scene has been lacking in recent years, it's a jazz/noise ensembles. I mean, how else are local legends and diggers supposed to get their shiny glow on if Flek Martin don't happen to be swinging through town? Thanks to Hot Box Honey, that's no longer a problem. On its scintillating debut album, *Flight of the Raven*, the group serves up a deliciously groovy, jazz-infused mix of lounge, hot jazz, swing and exotica made for smoking dance floors, whether said floor is a dimly lit nightclub or your living room.

Given their elite pedigree, Hot Box Honey are something of a local jazz supergroup. The band centers on the husband-and-wife combo of vocalist Jane Stone (Milk Andale) and pianist Greg Stone — the latter an accomplished jazz pianist player with his eponymous trio, the Lyricks/Duo Duo and the Belles in Blue's Quartet. Rounding out the core band are keyboardist Peter King, drummer Todd Workless and bassist Jason Davis. The record's guest list is impressive, too. It features saxophonist Dan Lygakis, violinist Doug Reid, trumpeter Josh Pealy, Brian

Chapman and Kevin Avery, trombonist Matt Avery, bassist Brent Thomas, and the late, great DJ A-Dog.

That's an impressive roster of talent, and Jane and Greg Stone display it with vintage savvy. From start to finish, the album brims with a breezy, vintage awareness that should appeal to fans of Flek Martin, Reginald Neil Zippers and Coco Kincaid. Or anyone with the ability to feel rhythm, really.

The band's most energy is most obviously represented by Jane Stone. Formerly the vocalist for Chamarr's live-in-time Big Band, she's a dynamic singer and we'll return to jazzier numbers, such as the bluesy waltz "One Man Woman" and the jazzy "Circusland Club." But she's equally comfortable on more exotic fare. With a Green Viper's "vitality" and "and a wah-wah" — at first gets and Amanda Gilberta "Run Left" adopts a bluesy sound effect that would make Carmen Miranda feel right at home.

While Jane Stone is impressively versatile, no small credit is due to her top-notch backing band for matching her aplomb with skill and tact of their own. Greg Stone's arrangements are often patch-perfect in lounge to style. But such bells above trends that serve to elevate above raw musicians. The smoky lounge



fuel of "Kissin'" is appropriately moody and mysterious. "Poppin' Lovers" is an early ska tune with perkily chirpy horns parts. Always closer "Dark and Stormy" expects a hint of wacky psychedelia and a shake of reggae and Latin jazz.

Flight of the Raven has three, it might be that the record is irresistible. But given how early Hot Box Honey hit the mark and how well those tunes transition despite their sometimes-disparate grooves, that gleeful genre hugging could just as easily be the record's go-to strategy.

Flight of the Raven by Hot Box Honey is available at iTunes. Hot Box Honey celebrate the release of their new record at Club Microscopic in Burlington on Saturday, December 12.

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Sundance Boutique, St Johnsbury

The White Market at their two locations in Lyndonville and St Johnsbury

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BURTON





SAT. 12 // SISTER SPARROW & THE DIRTY BIRDS (ROCK, SOUL)

Stormy Weather

SISTER SPARROW & THE DIRTY BIRDS prefer to keep things simple. Asked about her band's recent rise to national acclaim, front woman Aimee Kinchla states, "It's loud, fun and it's supposed to make you feel good." Just because it's obvious doesn't mean it's not true. The group's latest record, *The Weather Below*, bears out Kinchla's assessment with a throatful blend of rock and soul that's had critics from the *Wall Street Journal* to the *New Yorker* singing their praises. These birds flock to the Higher Ground Showcase Lounge in South Burlington on Saturday, December 12. **THE WEATHER AHEAD SPECS**

LET'S KIPP

BIRKEN JAMES (Craig Michael)
Pawcat 10:30 p.m. free
NEIGHBOR COUNTRY CLUB (David)
Bakers (Monday) 7:30-10 p.m.
\$10-15+ • Country • Buckle Up
(Saturday) 7 p.m. free
SEA LOUISIANA (Hortense Sarah)
Rand (Sund.) noon-3 p.m. \$5

chittenden county

BACKSTAGE PUB (Kenny)
Pawcat 8:30 p.m. free
BEVERLY HILLS (Derek)
Berk 11 Open House
Speedhouse (country show)
10-10:30 p.m. \$10-15
BRIDGE BRIDGE (Suzanne)
Lounge • Cedar Springs & the
Dirty Birds (the Lounge & Jamb)
Jamb, noon-8:30 p.m. \$10-15
MOONLIGHT HOUSE (John the
Club) (the Club) 9 p.m. \$10-15
ON TAP BAR & GRILL (Casper &
Lemon) (Sund.) 9 p.m. free
Innards (Sund.) 10 p.m. free

barre/montpelier

BARBERS RAGEL & HURDIE
CAFÉ (Suzanne) 7 p.m.
Jamb in (Michael) (Jamb) (Jamb)
Jamb) 9 p.m. donation

CHARLIE O'S WORLDWIDE

EXPOSED (Kenny) 8 p.m. free
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EXPOSED (Kenny) 8 p.m. free

stone/wingate area

MOOSE PLACE (Gary White)
Pawcat 9 p.m. free
SLEEPY HILL (Avery) (Sund.)
Sund 10 p.m. \$10-15
STAY RIVER valley/
waterbury
THE CLUB HOUSE (Suzanne)
Pawcat 9 p.m. free
THE BARN (Suzanne) 8 p.m. free
THE BARN (Suzanne) 8 p.m. free

middlebury area

CLUB (Kenny) 8 p.m. free
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outside verdant

VERMONT (Kenny) 8 p.m. free
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Jamb) 9 p.m. donation

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barre/montpelier

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CAFÉ (Suzanne) 7 p.m.
Jamb in (Michael) (Jamb) (Jamb)
Jamb) 9 p.m. donation

MON.14

barre/montpelier

FRANKIE'S (Kenny) 8 p.m. free
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chittenden county

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outside verdant

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TUE.15

barre/montpelier

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Curator as Disruptor

At Champlain College Art Gallery, Chris Thompson curates beyond the walls

BY AMY LILLY

Chris Thompson is the art curator for the whole of Champlain College. But until this semester, the college had no dedicated gallery space. So, for a year, he operated like a carousel barker, commandeering the odd black wall or streamer around campus for brief installations of art and sculpture.

Now Thompson has an operational hub: the Champlain College Art Gallery, which opened upstairs at the new glass-fronted Center for Communication & Creative Media in August. The space consists of two open-sided rooms facing each other across a broad hallway. One, a windowless exhibition room, can be closed with a security gate. The other is the windowed Gallery Lounge, whose cushioned modular stations are always open to students.

Since the space went live, Thompson, a rapid talker with shaggy hair that occasionally gets stuck behind his glasses, has been literally productive. He and his assistant curator, senior Soheila Parker, have mounted 34 exhibits in the past three months. Thompson created Parker's work-study position as a moment of need while he was still a "young curator." The help comes in handy: The curators change up one or both gallery rooms "every two or three weeks," Thompson says.

At the time of *Seven Days'* visit, the gallery held a fairly traditional exhibit titled "Bound Together," curated by Parker, who also works as a gallery docent and event coordinator at Burlington City Arts. On display were the Saint John's Bible—a hand-calligraphed and illuminated Bible commissioned by the Minnesota-based Benedictine order and completed in 2011—and select handmade books designed and bound by students using similar techniques.

Across the hall, the lounge held two digital installations. "Pixel Cloud," on display through next semester, is a hanging cluster of paper cubes, made from white coffee filters and streamers and illuminated from within by LED lights that change colors. The *Cloud* is a student "data visualization" project led by CCM professor Ken Howell. The



installation's colors register the emotions of tweets that students send the work's Twitter account as an ongoing basis.

On the lounge's walls, "Projecting Wiser," now discarded, leaned on several screens, video documenting the nightly outdoor light installations that two artists, Michael Ackerman and

Craig Winick, made during a two-week road trip across the country.

On that visit, Thompson pointed out that one room exhibited a display of "upholstered steps," while the other featured "a book which should last 1,000 years."

That comment hints at the range of curatorial freedom Thompson enjoys.

Though his budget is "really tight," he says, "I can pick any artist around the world." Some are performance artists; the gallery is as likely to host events as exhibits. Thompson often consults with faculty and students to learn who is currently starring the technology and design worlds—the combination of which is the college's main strength. "I ask them: what's doing cool stuff? I'm always interested in what's going on in the fringe," he enthuses.

One gallery happening that emerged from those campus conversations was a visit from Steve Roggenbuck. The Maine-based contemporary artist is a Twitter-inspired poet whose quirky YouTube videos have earned him notoriety fame and an invitation to perform at this year's New Museum Triennial in New York City. Roggenbuck was Champlain's artist-in-residence for a couple of weeks, living in the college's historic Berry Hall, creating new work and visiting classes. Thompson was amazed to see 80 students show up for the young poet's final performance, he says.

Students and faculty in Champlain's increasingly well-known gaming program led Thompson to Squirely, an indie video game designer interested in gender issues who prefers to be referred to with the pronoun "they." Squirely recently designed a popular game with a transgender protagonist, but the designer remains on the creative fringe of an industry whose products are ever more formulaic and profit-driven, according to recent assessments in the *Esquire* and elsewhere. Squirely's visit was one of Thompson's ongoing attempts to shake up students' thinking using art.

"It's important to be culturally curious, and sometimes you have to make that unavoidable for students," Thompson notes with a smile, gesturing at the space. The gallery and lounge are strategically placed along a "thoroughfare" that links the new building's gaming classrooms, writing professors' offices, conference rooms and a campus store.

Thompson's interest in sparking creativity is evident for dawn his career, which has consistently bridged the technology and art divide.

After spending seven years as manager of multimedia systems and then advancing technology at Burlington design firm Jager De Paolo Kemp, Thompson became an artist, working in ceramics, the chief curator at BCA Center for four years, and an adjunct professor of digital art at the University of Vermont.

While pursuing his MFA in emergent media at Champlain, from 2002 to 2004, Thompson helped cofound both the downtown Burlington maker space known as Generator and Champlain College's maker space, the MakerLab. Here's V, Thompson's MFA advisor, recalls that Thompson wrote his thesis as "what actually does creativity?" The maker spaces "dovetailed" with that pursuit, he says.

Thompson has a flair for the practical. He'll observe, "a radical pragmatist" — a quality that he used to work out the MakerLab's architectural layout, equipment and business model with the help of a fellowship. The 1,000-square-foot facility, which opened in 2014, occupies part of the first floor of the on-going Pine Street building and contains two such as a 3D printer, laser cutter and large-format printer.

Thompson used that printer to reproduce a digital drawing by 2015 alum Lisa Barber on two-story adhesive strips. He then mounted the piece in a stairwell of the GCM building.

Thompson also designed Generator's layout and operational details. A dozen individuals made the maker space come together, but "Chris was really influential," recalls Dorcas Kraft, she's a Generator board member and executive director of Burlington City Arts, one of the collaborating institutions, with Champlain and UVM, that brought the project into being.

As a curator, Thompson continues to impress both those matters. "It's always finding new ways to invent the [gallery] space," says Rowell. "It's not just the thing on display but the meaning behind the work. He identifies the core of the work, and the space reflects that."

When Kraft attended the August opening of the gallery, she was surprised to see work by individuals she didn't know were artists. One was photographer and Champlain president David Lonsdale, in whose office Thompson reports.

However, at the exposure Thompson is going to digital art. "He's really a pioneer," Kraft says. At BCA, Thompson curated the 2009 show "Game (Life)" Video Games in Contemporary Art," which was "groundbreaking" at the time, she recalls. "There had been no exposure of video games in an art context in Vermont before that."

Kraft, who just returned from Art Basel Miami Beach, sees a "tremendous cross-fertilization" of genres happening in the art world today, largely facilitated by artists' easy access to digital technology. But not much purely digital work is shown at the large art fairs, she notes, because spaces are an expensive to rent. Commercial galleries shy away from digital art, too, according to Thompson, because "they haven't found a way to monetize it" — or preserve it for posterity.

Thompson isn't fazed by such restrictions. He will continue to introduce disruptive and challenging new ideas with upcoming

gallery events such as a January appearance by the young Vermont-based classical composer Matt LaRocca. A recording of LaRocca's symphony Arctic Visions will play in the gallery, enclosed by a fourth wall Thompson will build, while four projectors fill the room with photographs the composer took during a sailing trip around the Arctic.

At the same time, in the Gallery Lounge, Thompson will again assemble the gaming community — and the community at large — this time with an exhibit of games by Tada Pedersen. The Italian-born artist, who will be in town as part of Generator's Big Maker speaker series, dangles "radical games against the tyranny of entertainment."

"Art is not just something to hang on the walls," declares Thompson. "It's about exploring the culture and asking the big questions of our time. Art is the best way to do that." ☐

Contact: libby@sevendaysart.com

INFO

The Champlain College Art Gallery is open to the public Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., except during college holidays. champlain.edu

NEW THIS WEEK

chittenden county

☐ **FOCAL POINT: HANDED-OUT** Exhibition of local photographers' images of Mt. Mansfield. Reception: Thursday, September 16, 6:30-8:30 p.m. December 16-30. Info: 434-2333. Mt. Mansfield Community Foundation/Chittenden.

☐ **RED** Photographs that speak for the role of water in human life. Opening reception: Thursday, Friday, October 16-17, 6-8 p.m. Artist talk and book signing: 7 p.m., December 19, January 30. Info: 436-3334. Japs in Public Library in Montpelier.

barre/colchester

☐ **NEW IDEAS** Elements and Ideas, with work without current art media locally the local artist and author. Reception: Friday, December 11-12, 6-8 p.m. Artist talk and book signing: 7 p.m., December 19, January 30. Info: 436-3334. Japs in Public Library in Montpelier.

stowe/westgate area

☐ **GRASSROOTS** Trained Artists, with about 10 members, is at Burlington Gallery. December 12-31, Jan. 1-31, Feb. 1-31, March 1-31, April 1-31, May 1-31, June 1-31, July 1-31, August 1-31, September 1-31, October 1-31, November 1-31, December 1-31. Info: 436-3334. Japs in Public Library in Montpelier.

rand river valley/hambury

ELABORATE "Exhibition Gallery" artists' space and an artist's studio. Opening reception: December 12, 6-8 p.m. Info: 436-3334. Japs in Public Library in Montpelier.

JOHN BROWN "In public" with four sculptures. Info: 436-3334. Japs in Public Library in Montpelier. Reception: December 12, 6-8 p.m. Info: 436-3334. Japs in Public Library in Montpelier.

ART EVENTS

PARTING SOCIAL: WINTER BIRD A local artist provides clay by hand and water the painting of the bird. "Winter is in" with guests and a cup of hot chocolate. Info: 436-3334. Japs in Public Library in Montpelier.

SUPA CLOUTIER Exhibition of local artists' work. Info: 436-3334. Japs in Public Library in Montpelier. Reception: December 12, 6-8 p.m. Info: 436-3334. Japs in Public Library in Montpelier.

SOUTHERN HOLIDAY SHOP A multi-day art event featuring a variety of local artists' work. Info: 436-3334. Japs in Public Library in Montpelier.

ARTIST TALK: WINTER BIRD Local artist's work. Info: 436-3334. Japs in Public Library in Montpelier.

ARTIST CONCENTRATION: JAMES FOSTER Exhibition of local artists' work. Info: 436-3334. Japs in Public Library in Montpelier.

ARTIST TALK: JAMES FOSTER Local artist's work. Info: 436-3334. Japs in Public Library in Montpelier.

STUDIO TALK: CLAUDE LAROCHE Local artist's work. Info: 436-3334. Japs in Public Library in Montpelier.

ARTIST TALK: CLAUDE LAROCHE Local artist's work. Info: 436-3334. Japs in Public Library in Montpelier.

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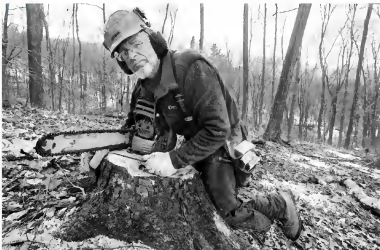
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'Portrait of a Forest: Men and Machine' is the 70-photograph exhibition at the Vermont

Public Center, Weidbridge photographs George Redness shares his perspective of Vermont's contemporary logging industry. His work is given additional context through historical documents relating to the logging community, exhibited alongside the photos. Redness conveys, "Unlike Vermonters of the past, many of us no longer have a direct connection to the working landscape. We see logging trucks and the occasional roadside log collection, but rarely do we have contact with loggers or fully understand their importance to the state." "Hermit of a Forest" is a companion to a prior Redness/VFC project, "Fifty-Six Years of Pretty Straight Cuts: The Life of a Round Timber Farm" through January 9. *Exhibited through by George Redness*

NOT FINISHED 41 044

ARTIST ORGANOGRAPHY: A REVIEW

WILMINGTON The local off-roading society is sponsoring the first rock crawl. The Yellow-Wormed Snake Crawl Crawl is scheduled for Saturday, November 30, from 8 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

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feature regularly for sale by approximately 50 local artisans and makers, including jewelry, silver, wood, glass, and ceramics. Children's workshops and more: Montgomery Elementary School, Saturday, December 12, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Info: info@montgomeryartfair.org

ART UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL

[illegible]

ONGOING SHOWS

Journal of Management Education

MADE: What's from 21 South First street highlighting the wide variety of arts and making in the Enterprise Zone. **THE ARTS LINKUP:** A 22,000-sq-ft group exhibition with works including photography, painting, stained glass, and drawing by local artists. Through December 31. **Info:** 800-525-5253, 781-864-Devin in Burlington.

REPRINTS ARE AVAILABLE FROM: CROWN BOOKS/STATIONERY CO.

independas food signs, which originally hung in the Woodlands and Church Street. Through my number 21 (aka 218 2538) Red Gazebo, a Gullington.

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works by the full-time college professor. Through December 31, 1994, 880-6733, Vermont Air Supply and Black & Veatch, P.C., is available.

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WILSON 1940 p. 168-171. Fig. 10. 10-15 cm long; square black-and-white checkered pattern, all produced within 5-10 plants common. Through December E. to 100 m. 1938. Santa Rosa, Cuba at Havana.

DOI: 10.1002/for

Contemporary social scientists study samples of faces and machine-learning algorithms designed and programmed to detect and categorize faces. Machine learning algorithms are used to detect faces in images and videos. The algorithms are trained on a large dataset of faces and learn to recognize faces in new images and videos. The algorithms are used in a variety of applications, including facial recognition, security, and marketing.

All antidepressants work on neurotransmitters. These

May 31 WORLD LEADERS & GLOBAL CITIZENS

PHOTOGRAPHS BY FREDRICK LEIGH, U.S. TERRITORIAL
have shifted again and on the 40th anniversary of Sen.
Pendleton's death from leukemia, his various official
and private events over the past five decades. Through
December 30, 1976, 608-0752, University of Vermont
Rising Museum of Art in Burlington.

JEAN CHASSAGNE, *FrenchCling*, www.frenchcling.com

One Million for Every Through-Drive Enter 31 for \$1M! Spreads & EMI's come (Free Drive) in Our Sector!

RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODS This explorative study was conducted using

MAURIA WILLARD Shape-shifts a collection of new abstract paintings by the Vermont artist. Through January 16. 1011 PM. 1011 Vermont Mall, Gallery 101A, Corbin in Burlington.

KEYWORD: *Family Communication*

Ground photographs including family photos, newspaper cuttings, and other items from her. "Grand Proof" called out of rock performances and artists through February 20 (tel: 012 46222). Any E. "Grand Proof" Photo Center in London.

444881 1995-96. *Microgaster* detrital structure

paired with the extract powder. Through the online
ISBN 978-1-905145-11-1. Available from: <http://www.fishbase.org>

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SAGE FUCHSBERGER Spent several years abroad pursuing his love of sailing, expanding the cultural world of the sailing community and others. Through January 22, 1995, 250 Barnard House Gallery in Burlington.

[illegible]

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GOSWOLDEN PLEASANT SHOWS KIDZ

BENEFIT ART SHOW First Annual H&AC benefits art show featuring more than 100 paintings, prints, and sculpture by local artists. Through December 31. Info: 262-5554. Municipal Center Auditorium, Cedar.

ROCKFORD ARTISTS MILITARY ART SHOW & SALE Here are artists offering paintings, fiber art, wood carvings, and wood carving in glass objects, and other creative art. Dec. Through December 31. Info: 495-5357. 6455 Southland in Northbrook.

WHEELER ART SHOW Works from new and sought-after artists in the areas of Books, Arts, and Community. Dec. Through December 31. Info: 433-9324. Spotlight Gallery in Northbrook.

POTLACE CHAIR Life in Vermont? Inlandia Days and Vermont inspired art and sculpture by the Montpelier Artists' Club. Through December 31. Info: 272-1920. The Green Ocean Art Gallery in Capital Center in Montpelier.

WOMEN OF NORWICH: TRAVELERS AND TOURS Exhibitions: Photography, documents, uniforms, and objects containing the women who were "Tour." Includes first letters of University professors to the first women's college of the United States and other historical letters. Through December 31. Info: 433-2193. Colburn Museum & History Center in Norwich University in Northfield.

GOSWOLDEN PLEASANT SHOWS KIDZ

NEW LANCY FOLK ARTS Lancers are painting by 20 living and 100+ deceased artists. Real and the legacy of museum memorabilia and artifacts. Also, the "New Lancy" series. Info: 433-2193. Colburn Museum & History Center in Norwich University in Northfield.

CARROLL TEMPEST But West? Chicago in the City? High art and contemporary art. Through December 31. Info: 433-2193. Colburn Museum & History Center in Norwich University in Northfield.

WHEELER ART SHOW Works from new and sought-after artists in the areas of Books, Arts, and Community. Dec. Through December 31. Info: 433-9324. Spotlight Gallery in Northbrook.

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mod river valley/canterbury

WINTER WOODS Works from new and sought-after artists in the areas of Books, Arts, and Community. Dec. Through December 31. Info: 433-9324. Spotlight Gallery in Northbrook.

MARY HILL New work by the local artist. Through December 31. Info: 495-5357. 6455 Southland in Northbrook.

middlebury area

CELEBRATE THE MILITARY Artists and poets by more than 10 artists working in wood, fiber, and other media. Through December 31. Info: 433-2193. Colburn Museum & History Center in Norwich University in Northfield.

WINTER WOODS Works from new and sought-after artists in the areas of Books, Arts, and Community. Dec. Through December 31. Info: 433-9324. Spotlight Gallery in Northbrook.

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'Blue-Plate Special' In the age of irony, the line is this between true love and... something people buy at Urban Outfitters. Fortunately, that might be appropriate, as the month's exhibition, "Blue-Plate Special," at Red Square in Burlington demonstrates. When the Church Street Woolworth closed in 1968, seven days art donor and Red Square center Diane Sullivan bought a lot of its cafeteria signs. These relics of lunch-counter food photography come complete with strongly poetic Brush Script captions of meals such as "Blue and Shave," "Vegetable Treats" and "Light Fantastic." Sullivan's reproductions of these nostalgic images will hang through December 31, invoking memories in anyone old enough to remember the five-and-dime. The rest of you might leave something "Pretzel," "Light Fantastic," reproduction of original Woolworth cafeteria sign.

USED BOOKS AND PAPER BOOKS "Our book" and paper book. Info: 433-2193. Colburn Museum & History Center in Norwich University in Northfield.

WINTER WOODS Works from new and sought-after artists in the areas of Books, Arts, and Community. Dec. Through December 31. Info: 433-9324. Spotlight Gallery in Northbrook.

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middlebury area

THE ART OF BEING - THE WIND OF ART Art community can shop from a variety of books, art, and other items. Info: 433-2193. Colburn Museum & History Center in Norwich University in Northfield.

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Music Director

2015 HOLIDAY POPS

Anthony Primavera, conductor
Milly Boon, host

Saturday
December 12
7:30 p.m.

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art



John Bisbee "I want to see how far the rod can travel," says Maine sculptor John Bisbee, who has been working exclusively with 12-inch rods for almost 30 years. This extended experiment in self-imposed material limitation has been met with success, not least because it's a pleasure to see this utilitarian object transformed into something completely nonfunctional. His exhibit "Branched" opens at the Walker Contemporary in Whitefield on Saturday, December 12, and features mandala-like designs with a far more two-dimensional orientation than much of Bisbee's larger sculptural work, such as those on view at Shelburne Museum last year. Through January 30. Pictured: Bisbee's rod mandala.

WILLIAMSBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

13. "NORTHERN LOVE: CONTEMPORARY EXHIBIT"
An annual contemporary regional issue, complete with videos, discussion and awards.
THRU DECEMBER 14, 6-8 p.m. Through December 14. **SHAWMUT MUSEUM**, 1000 North Main St., 01901. 508-339-1100. www.shawmutmuseum.org

14. "CHAMPION ISLANDS/NORTHEAST"
A series of photographs, videos, and audio recordings of the islands and the people who live there. **VERMONT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**, 1000 North Main St., 01901. 508-339-1100. www.vso.org

15. "UPPER TOLL"

16. "COLLECTIVE TOLL: SNOW" (closed sign by John) Army, gravity by Matthew Wilson. 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. **VERMONT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**, 1000 North Main St., 01901. 508-339-1100. www.vso.org

17. "FLYNN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS: HOLIDAY POPS"
A series of performances by the Vermont Symphony Orchestra, featuring the Vermont Symphony Orchestra and the Vermont Symphony Orchestra.

18. "WALLA WOODS" An exhibit of small works presented by the artist during the day of the event. Through December 12. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. **WALLA WOODS**, 1000 North Main St., 01901. 508-339-1100. www.walla-woods.org

19. "THE WALKER CONTEMPORARY" A series of contemporary art exhibitions, including the Walker Contemporary.

20. "Branched" A series of contemporary art exhibitions, including the Walker Contemporary.

21. "VERMONT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: HOLIDAY POPS" A series of contemporary art exhibitions, including the Walker Contemporary.

22. "VERMONT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: HOLIDAY POPS" A series of contemporary art exhibitions, including the Walker Contemporary.

23. "VERMONT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: HOLIDAY POPS" A series of contemporary art exhibitions, including the Walker Contemporary.

24. "VERMONT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: HOLIDAY POPS" A series of contemporary art exhibitions, including the Walker Contemporary.



NEW IN THEATERS

THE HEART OF THE SEA Based on the 2000 memoir that inspired Mel Gibson's *Apocalypse Now*, this historical survival adventure film follows the journey of a whaling ship that ends in the ultimate attack of a leviathan. Chris Hemsworth, Gillian Anderson, and Ben Foster star (PG-13) PG-13

NOW PLAYING

EDGE OF SPITE★★★ In a conflict between a young man (Tom Hardy) and his mother (Julianne Moore), the film is a powerful and intense performance by Hardy and Moore. (PG-13) PG-13

RECYCLED★★★ In the middle of a city, a man (Tom Hardy) and his mother (Julianne Moore) are in a conflict between a young man (Tom Hardy) and his mother (Julianne Moore). (PG-13) PG-13

EDGE★★★ The story of a man (Tom Hardy) and his mother (Julianne Moore) is a powerful and intense performance by Hardy and Moore. (PG-13) PG-13

THE GOOD WIFE★★★ The story of a man (Tom Hardy) and his mother (Julianne Moore) is a powerful and intense performance by Hardy and Moore. (PG-13) PG-13

THE LION KING★★★ The story of a man (Tom Hardy) and his mother (Julianne Moore) is a powerful and intense performance by Hardy and Moore. (PG-13) PG-13

THE GOOD WIFE★★★ The story of a man (Tom Hardy) and his mother (Julianne Moore) is a powerful and intense performance by Hardy and Moore. (PG-13) PG-13

THE GOOD WIFE★★★ The story of a man (Tom Hardy) and his mother (Julianne Moore) is a powerful and intense performance by Hardy and Moore. (PG-13) PG-13

ratings

★ = highly praised
★★ = praised but not
★★★ = praised but not
★★★★ = praised but not
★★★★★ = praised but not

BACKLASH ASSOCIATES TO MOVIES, INC. (PG-13) PG-13

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DECEMBER 23 & 30 ISSUES*

- **Calendar Events**
Thursday 12/23 at noon
(for events scheduled 12/23 - 1/13)
- **Art Shows & Club Dates**
Friday 12/28 at noon (for exhibits and shows happening before 1/13)
- **seconddaynot.com/postevent**
- **Classifieds & Classes**
Monday 12/23 at noon
- **Jobs**
Monday 12/23 at noon
- **seconddaynot.com/classifieds**
- **Retail advertising**
Friday 12/28 at noon
- **802-984-5884**

***SEVEN DAYS**
There will get be a paper published on Wednesday January 6, 2016



LOCALtheaters

*Weekend showtimes only. **Up to date times visit www.localtheaters.com

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40 Canal St. (at the 300) Bayville
609.622.1222 bigpicturetheater.com

Wednesday 8 — Thursday 10

The Hunger Games
Mockingjay — Part 2
The Hunger Games
Spectre

Friday 10 — Saturday 11

The Good Dinosaur
The Hunger Games
Mockingjay — Part 2
Love the Coopers

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104 10th Ave. Suite 100 Bayville
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Mockingjay — Part 2
The Night Before
The Perks of Being a Wallflower
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CAPITOL SHOWPLACE

1000 E. 10th St. Bayville 609.622.1222
capitolshowplace.com

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Mockingjay — Part 2
The Perks of Being a Wallflower
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2000 E. 10th St.
S00070

Friday 8 — Wednesday 10

The Hunger Games
Mockingjay — Part 2
The Night Before
The Perks of Being a Wallflower
(Sat & Sun only) (Sat & Sun only)

Saturday 10 — Sunday 11

The Good Dinosaur
The Hunger Games
Mockingjay — Part 2
Love the Coopers

ESSEX CINEMAS & THEATRE

21 Franklin St. Bayville 609.622.1222
essexcinemas.com

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Mockingjay — Part 2
The Night Before
The Perks of Being a Wallflower
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The Hunger Games
Mockingjay — Part 2
The Night Before
The Perks of Being a Wallflower
(Sat & Sun only)

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Friday 8 — Wednesday 10

The Hunger Games
Mockingjay — Part 2
The Night Before
The Perks of Being a Wallflower
(Sat & Sun only)

Saturday 10 — Sunday 11

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The Hunger Games
Mockingjay — Part 2
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hardys-theatre.com

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HERBIE'S RORY CINEMA

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thesavorytheatre.com

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STONE CINEMA 3

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stonecinema.com

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WELDON THEATRE

1000 E. 10th St. Bayville 609.622.1222
weldontheatre.com

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NOW PLAYING IN VT

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS (R) Director: Peter Dinklage. The Hollywood comedian also became a prize-winning actor at the 2005 Sundance Film Festival. In this comedy, he plays the role of a high school teacher who is fired from his job and then goes on to become a coach for a small-town football team. (PG-13) (R) (PG-13)

THE FRODO BAGGINS TRILOGY (PG) Director: Peter Jackson. The first of three films in the series, this fantasy adventure follows the journey of a young hobbit who becomes the savior of the world. (PG) (PG-13) (PG-13)

NOW ON VIDEO

THE FRODO BAGGINS TRILOGY (PG) Director: Peter Jackson. The first of three films in the series, this fantasy adventure follows the journey of a young hobbit who becomes the savior of the world. (PG) (PG-13) (PG-13)

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More movies!

Film scores, events and festivals of various other than cinema can be found in the sidebar section.

OFFBEAT FLICK OF THE WEEK

BY MARCOT HARRISON

Tangerine

It may be a long shot for these Oscars, but this flick should have things under control. It's a comedy about two men who are out of control. Set on the streets of LA, it's a short story about two men who are out of control. It's a high energy, fast-paced film that is a surprise to many. You can see it in local theaters, but you can also watch it on Netflix or Amazon.



Check this out for the week. It's a short story about two men who are out of control. It's a high energy, fast-paced film that is a surprise to many. You can see it in local theaters, but you can also watch it on Netflix or Amazon.

WHAT I'M WATCHING

BY ETHAN DE SOUZA

This week I'm watching:

Push

The 2009 sci-fi action film Push has a lot of interesting twists. The first half of the film is a high energy, fast-paced film that is a surprise to many. You can see it in local theaters, but you can also watch it on Netflix or Amazon.



One of the best of the week. It's a short story about two men who are out of control. It's a high energy, fast-paced film that is a surprise to many. You can see it in local theaters, but you can also watch it on Netflix or Amazon.

Watch feature: subscribe to our newsletter to get the latest news and updates on the movie industry.

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HARRY BLISS

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FRAN KRAUSE

DEEP DARK FEARS



I HAVE A RECURRING FEAR ABOUT MEAKOTTERS:



SOME DAY, AS I GET OUT, MY HAT WILL GET BLOWN OFF.



I'LL REFLEXIVELY REACH UP TO GRAB IT.



AND MY ARM WILL BEGINS UP TO GRAB IT.

Have a deep, dark fear of your own? Submit it to cartoonist Fran Krause at deep-dark-fears.tumblr.com, and you may see your neurons illustrated in these pages.

RED MEAT

comic parodies of the moment

from the creator of Max Cannon



THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



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every

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**Healthy
Living**
Market and Cafe

Sweet & Spicy Chèvre Gratin

With a perfect balance of sweet and spicy, this happy appetizer will complement practically any holiday cocktail!

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 small red onion, sliced into thin rounds | 2 lb. cheddar, salted and |
| 1 cup white vinegar | 1 cup stone fruit preserves (cherry, plum, etc.) |
| 1 cup water | 8 Peppadew peppers, finely chopped |
| 1/2 cup sugar | 1 thick-cut pepper, seeded and minced |
| 2 Tbsp. whole mustard seeds | 1 Tbsp. apple cider |
| 1 Tbsp. black peppercorns | |

Preheat oven to 400°F. Bring vinegar, water, sugar, mustard seeds, and peppercorns to a boil in a small sauce pot. Cook until sugar dissolves and then transfer to a bowl. Add onion slices and stir to cover. Allow onion to pickle in the vinegar juice for at least 1 hour. Spread cheese evenly in gratin or small casserole dish. In med. oven bowl, combine preserves with Peppadews, habaneros, and apple cider or sweet cherry juice. Remove pickled onion from fridge, drain, and chop fine. Stir into preserves mixture. Spread mixture over goat cheese and bake in oven for about 10 minutes, or until warm. Turn on broiler and broil for about 2-4 minutes, or until 1 topping is lightly browned. Serve hot with toasted baguette slices.

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